The Chicago Tribune.

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WASHINGTON.

Senator Schurz Rises to a Personal Explanation in the Senate.

Recent Charges Made Against Himself and Senator Trumbull Emphatically Refuted.

Customs Service Reform Bill Introduced in the Senate.

Numerous Petitions Presented Favoring Reform in Taxation and Tariff.

The Income Tax---Unsuccessful Attempt to Secure the Report of a Bill for its Abolition.

Special Despatch to The Chicago Tribune.

EXPENSES OF THE NEW LOAN.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 8.—Secretary Boutwell to-day sent a draft of the section of the Appropriation bill to the House, intended to construct the section of the Funding bill, which declares the amount which may be paid for funding and other expenses of the loan. It provides that the amount paid on account of the issue, transfer, delivery, redemption, and other expenses of the various securities, shall be paid from, and shall not exceed the appropriations of one-fourth of one per centum on the amounts of these various securities for each fiscal year.

SCHURZ'S EXPLANATION.

The feature in the Senate to-day was Schurz's reply to the editorial attack of the New York *Times*, by which he showed that every statement in the article in question was a gross misrepresentation. The explanation attracted general attention.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

The Republican opposition in the House to-day upon the proposed Constitutional amendment to enable native citizens ineligible to the Presidency mainly from the fact that its terms did not require the same qualifications as to age as are now necessary in American citizens.

GOVERNMENT DEALINGS WITH INDIANS.

The House to-day by unanimous vote ordered the Committee on Indian Affairs to investigate the whole matter of the dealings of the Government officials with Cherokee, Creek, and other Indians in the matters of annuities, pensions, bounties, &c., and empowered the committee to send for persons and papers.

WRIGHT ARRESTED.

Judge J. W. Wright, of this city, was arrested here this afternoon by the United States Marshal, under an indictment by the Grand Jury of the United States District Court of New York, for conspiracy with United States officials to defraud the government in the matter of Indian provisions and supplies. The indictment was found in that court upon which the act was consummated there by the payment of checks to Indian claimants at the Subtreasury. Warrants have been issued for the arrest of Clapperton, ex-Pension Agent at Fort Gibson, and others. Wright was taken to New York to-night in custody of the Marshal.

EDUCATIONAL.

A somewhat extensive sad novel will was introduced in the House to-day, and referred to the Committee on Education and Labor. It provides from and after the passage of the bill, all moneys arising from sone public lands shall be set apart exclusively for educational purposes, and shall constitute a national fund. One half the proceeds shall be given to States that will apply the same to the education of that part of the population between the ages of 6 and 16 years, while the balance is to be funded, and the interest of the same only is to be distributed as above. Mr. Hoar, Chairman of the Committee, speaks very highly of the bill, and it will receive favorable action in his committee.

PETITIONS.

Numerous petitions begin to be received from different parts of the country, entitled, "Prayer of Tax-Payers for Tariff Reform," and asking the repeal of duties on salt coal, and pig iron, and a general reduction of the tariff to a revenue basis. These petitions are forwarded through an association styled the "Tax-Payers' Union," whose circulars are signed by William Grosvenor, of St. Louis, Hon. David Wells of Connecticut; Edward Atkinson, of Massachusetts; M. Sands, of New York; Horace White, of Chicago, and Hon. Jacob D. Cox, of Cincinnati. It appears from circulars issued that this association is not designed to supersede or take the place of any now existing, but to aid in combining and concentrating the efforts of all those who are working for tariff reform. To this end they invite the co-operation of all friends of reform, and they are especially urged to forward all information as to the working of the tariff to the Washington office of the union, of which Colonel William Grosvenor will have charge during the session.

SECOND SESSION OF THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE.

A motion will be made in the Ways and Means Committee to-morrow to have the future sessions of that committee open to the press, and it is believed that this proposition, after deliberation, will pass.

THE SAN JUAN BOUNDARY QUESTION.

The President to-day received from Mr. Bancroft a copy of the arguments presented by England to the Emperor of Germany upon the San Juan boundary question.

APPROPRIATION BILLS.

Mr. Stevenson, of Ohio, to-day introduced a bill appropriating $300,000 for the improvement of the Falls of the Ohio and completion of the Louisville Canal, and a bill, without naming a definite appropriation, directing the Secretary of the Treasury to purchase a suitable site for the public buildings in Cincinnati.

THE NEW STEAMBOAT LAW.

General Negley to-day submitted an amendment to Section 18 of the proposed Steamboat law, forwarded to him in accordance with a resolution passed by seventy-five pilots on the Ohio River. It provides that each applicant for a license shall be examined by the Board of Licensed Pilots selected by the Inspector, the examiners to take oath that they will propose such questions, and none other, as in their opinion are best calculated to ascertain the qualifications of applicants; the examination to be concerning his knowledge of the rivers where he desires to act as pilot, and making all matters pertaining to the navigation of steam vessels;—each Examiner to report in writing, and if the Board finds the applicant qualified, to receive a license for one year, which may be revoked for cause. The rest of the section is left unchanged.

MARRIOTT ON INCOME TAX.

The House to-day, the yeas and nays being ordered by a vote of 81 to 7, refused to instruct the Ways and Means Committee to report a bill repealing the income tax.

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

Representative Willard, of Vermont, offered a bill to-day, which was referred to the Civil Service Committee, practically enacting the rules and regulations lately reported by the Commission. One section of this bill provides that appointees shall hold during good behavior, and another that officials shall take no part in any electioneering project, or use their influence to obtain votes, under penalty of dismissal. It is proposed to amend this bill in the committee by adding a section providing for the appointment of Commissioners or examiners, with salaries of $1,000 per annum, whose duties it shall be to examine all applicants for appointment.

MUTILATED CURRENCY.

The Post Office Department has agreed to redeem mutilated currency in payment of postage stamps.

THE VICE PRESIDENCY.

Political and Personal positive candidates for the Vice Presidency. Blaine's candidature is speaking.

CONGRESSIONAL.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

SCHURZ rose to make a personal statement. He had read from the Clerk's desk an article containing certain charges against him, first published in the New York *Times*, and subsequently copied into other papers.

Mr. PRESIDENT, I desire to make a few remarks upon this article; in the first place because the paper which published it is regarded as the special metropolitan organ of the present Administration; in the second place, because this attempt forms a part of the systematic warfare which has been carried on for some months by members of this body, that has been recently announced that it is going to be a power stronger than dotcent respect for public opinion, stronger than the Secretary of the Treasury himself, to sustain it; for if that power was not stronger than decent respect for public opinion, the abuse would have succumbed long ago to the remonstrances of the honorable community of New York. If that power had not been stronger than the Secretary of the Treasury, the abuse would have succumbed to the strong adverse opinion of that official. I asked the question: Who and where is that stronger power, asked the question? I did not receive an answer. I respectfully submit that the gentlemen who indulge in the pitiable business of villifying the Senator from Illinois and myself for taking it, have not, by their slanders, furnished the answer to it. That would be satisfactory to the country. I believe that when nothing else can be brought up against those who denounce the abuses of the Government, that this denunciation, the country will understand the reason. Now, sir, I have shown you the character of the statements contained in the *Times*, and the character of those who have invented and propagated them. The candid and intelligent people may form their opinions themselves. I simply add that after this I shall not again consider it necessary to take any note of such slander. The *Times* and its coadjutors will have a free field, but if the attacks should come as thick as locusts, they will not frighten me away from that course which I conscientiously believe to be the course of honor, truth, right, and duty.

Mr. FENTON called up his bill reported from the Finance Committee, to reorganize the customs service, and addressed the Senate at length, setting forth the leading features. He pointed out as the most noticeable feature of the present customs system the enormous emoluments of Collectors, Naval Officers, Surveyors, and the pernicious practice by which they were allowed to pay from their salaries, fixed by law, and that all the compensation I had received from the port of New York, Philadelphia, New Orleans, and San Francisco, at $6,357, from which amount there was paid to Collectors, Naval Officers, Surveyors, and Appraisers, from June 30, 1870, to June 30, 1871, the Collector of New York collected fines, penalties, and forfeitures to the amount of $678,000, of which his share was $52,000. The receipts of the principal offices of the port of New York cannot be less than $60,000 per annum more than is paid the President, all Members of the Cabinet, and Judges of Supreme Court combined.

THE REVENUE BILL.

Mr. FENTON said the temptations to perquisites gave the officials interested in the management of frauds. He then spoke of the abuse of the special agency system, saying, a bureau had been established in the Treasury Department which was simply for their aggrandizement. Now, sir, I am not called upon to go into a campaign into campaign, year after year, for several months at a time, utterly neglecting their private business. After having read the *Times* article, I undertook to figure up how much time I had spent in public speaking for the Republican cause since 1856. I found it from 70 to 72 weeks, or about a year and five months. Adding up also all that I had received from committees during that whole time, I found that it amounts in the aggregate to less than a year's salary. When, then, I am asked to mention this subject merely as a very humiliating one, because it shows the means of warfare which are resorted to against certain members of this body, it is still more humiliating that a paper, the organ of the Administration, which stands at the head of the party that has been built up in its power, gradually and laboriously, by just such labors as those in which I, with my colleagues, was engaged, should make such an explanation necessary.

The next charge is, that when I returned from the Spanish mission, I asked Mr. Fish to make Major General's commission in the army, and threatened him if he would not give it. This is a falsehood again. I did not ask him for Major General's commission when I resigned the Spanish mission, but he offered me Major General's commission. The assertion, which I find in this article in quotation marks, that I threatened I would at once withdraw my support from Grant, and oppose the Administration, is so supremely ridiculous, it is so childishly absurd, that I do not think it requires any serious comment.

The next charge is that in going to Missouri I assumed at once the leadership of the extreme Radicals and became the Radical of the most proscriptive type. This is a falsehood again, for the fact is that I was in the National Convention of 1868, I had the honor to introduce a resolution in favor of general amnesty. This resolution I based, I relied upon myself to defame Henderson before the people of Missouri, and destroy their confidence in him, so that he should be elected to the Senate. This is a falsehood again. It is well known that Henderson's defeat at that time was owing to his attitude in the impeachment trial, as the public then stood.

The next charge is that in 1868 I was a delegate to the Democratic Convention; went there with revolutionary intent. What that means I do not know exactly; but one thing I do know, that for my action in that connection I was highly praised by the *Times*.

The next is that in the early days of the President's term, I was one of the most persistent beggars for appointments for appointments to the service. If that were true, then the President must have had a particular liking for being bored, for I assure you there were well nigh half the early days of the Administration, when I met him outside of the White House, he asked me very kindly why I did not come to visit him more frequently.

It is further stated that in one case I advocated the cause of a citizen of Missouri for a prominent position, which I entirely incompetent and unfit to discharge the duties of the great position. I suppose this refers to the case of General Blair, who, after his return as a member of Congress, was first presented for the Post Office at St. Louis, then for the pension agency at Indianapolis, by the delegation in Missouri; then nominated for the Mission to Venezuela, then nominated to the Mission to Brazil, which latter he declined to confirm his appointment. I did, to a certain extent, advocate the claims of a number of nominations. I did it with the delegation from Missouri, with the exception of one or two members. Being a Senator, and there somewhat formed the idea that it was, to some extent, proper to take care of constituents. When the Secretary of State called that my attention was in my elegant lectures on Civil Service reform I might mention, giving a detailed history of them. I beg to say that I am ready to do so whenever I do speak on Civil Service reform, I give as one illustration the absurdities of the system, and of the pressure from which it may lead. In the case of this gentleman, he was presented for the Post Office, for a pension agency, for the Mission to Venezuela, for the Mission to Brazil, and finally appointed Minister Plenipotentiary to Austria, which latter position, then located at Vienna, was taken out of that by the President and transferred to the Governorship of a Territory, then was taken out of that by the President and transferred to the Governorship of a Territory, then was taken out of that by the President and transferred to the Governorship of a Territory, then

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING.

Hamburg: Confirmation of M. P. Tuley, Esq., as Corporation Counsel.

"The Hatter" Resigns His Boiler Inspectorship—A Successor Elected.

North Side Police Court Clerk—Endorsement of a Veto by the Mayor.

Report of the Committee on the Subject of Fire Limits.

The Original Ordinance Recommended for Passage.

A regular meeting of the Common Council was held last evening, President McAvoy in the chair. The following Aldermen were present: Bowen, Otis, Coey, McGennis, Thompson, McAvoy, Healy, Stone, Tracy, Hickey, Culleton, Bailey, Cleary, Bateham, Powell, Holden, Clade, Sweet, Whitbeck, Heath, Gardner, Sherwood, Cullerton, Lindland, Buehler, McGrath, Schmidt, Stout, Schaefer, Leugscher, McCaffrey, Carney, Clarke, Ogden, Busse, Woodman.

PETITION.

A petition from N. Matson & Co., and 250 others, for the extension of the fire limits to the limits of the city, was referred to the Committee on Fire and Water.

INQUIRIES.

Ald. Holden offered a resolution, directing the Finance Committee to report on the following matters:

1. How much money is there in the City Treasury?
2. How much of the sum is credited to the Water Fund?
3. How much money has there been paid in the two years ending with Dec. 1, 1871, as interest on the city debts?
4. The amount received as rent on public grounds.
5. Cost of the new City Hall.
6. Money expended in improving Lake Park.

The resolution was referred to the Finance Committee, with instruction to report at the next meeting.

BOOKS FOR A FREE LIBRARY.

A resolution was adopted, calling for a special committee of three to look into the matter of procuring reasons for the reception of such books as may be shipped from England for a free public library.

Ald. Sweet presented a petition from James Forsyth & Co., asking permission to enlarge their premises on Union street, and to occupy a portion of the sidewalk. Referred.

THE JUDD AND MILLIMAN TRACTS.

A preamble and resolution were offered by Ald. Holden, setting forth the fact that if it is true that fraud and corruption entered into the exchange of the Judd for the Milliman tract; that exchange is rendered void thereby, and directing the Corporation Counsel to report as to the validity of that transfer. Referred to the Committee on Wharves and Public Grounds.

LARRABEE STREET.

A petition from property-owners on Larrabee street, with reference to the improvement of that street, was referred to the Board of Public Works.

HOGS AND CATTLE.

A resolution, offered by Ald. Hickey, looking to the passage of an ordinance forbidding the driving of hogs and cattle across or along the public streets, was referred to the Committee on Police.

BY WHAT AUTHORITY.

A resolution, offered by Ald. Holden, was passed, directing the Board of Public Works to report by what authority shanties are being erected outside the burnt district and inside the fire limits.

CITY TREASURER'S BOND.

The official bond of David Gage, City Treasurer, in the sum of $1,000,000, was received and approved. The sureties are W. F. Tucker, Albert Dale, Charles Shuman, J. Metcalf Wing, John J. Rice, N. F. Gage, and George W. Gage.

FROM THE COMPTROLLER.

A communication from the City Comptroller, relating to an unpaid bill of Wallworth, Twohig & Purse, amounting to $1,350, for heating apparatus in City Hall, was referred to the Committee on Finance.

A communication was received from the Comptroller, stating that Peter Gage, City Treasurer, had paid into the Treasury for the year ending Dec. 31, 1871, interest on deposits to the amount of $8,183.

A communication from the Comptroller, embodying bids for purchasing the engine house lot on Clark street, was referred to the Committee on Fire and Water.

CORPORATION COUNSEL.

A communication was received from the Mayor, nominating M. F. Tuley, Esq., as Corporation Counsel for the next two years.

Ald. Holden moved to confirm the nomination, and the motion prevailed unanimously.

VETO BY THE MAYOR.

The following communication from Mayor Medill was read:

GENTLEMEN: I return herewith, without my approval, a resolution relative to a Committee of Investigation, and short-hand reporter [sic] adopted by the Common Council, December 18, 1871, as follows:

Resolved, That the Committee on Investigation be authorized to employ counsel to assist them in the investigation, and also a short-hand reporter to report the evidence, and that the Aldermen or other persons accused before said Committee of Investigation be allowed counsel, and that the services of said reporter be allowed counsel.

My reasons for so doing are, 1. That I am advised by the Corporation Counsel that so much of the resolution as authorizes the committee to employ counsel is illegal, as the Common Council has no power to employ, or authorize the employment by a committee of investigation, counsel to assist them in the conduct of the city. That this has been expressly decided in the State of New York upon charter provisions similar to our own. The Comptroller, while he approved of the power, is vested with the power to employ additional counsel, in special cases, by the provisions of Section 5, Chapter 5, of the City Charter; but I can discover no necessity for so doing in the present case as I believe that the evidence of the Land Commissioners' case [illegible] advises the Committee have the right to demand the production of all [illegible] books and papers of successors [illegible] and as their legal ability to discharge their duties there can be no question.

2. The resolution provides that persons who "may be accused shall be allowed counsel." This is a manifestation of the interpretation put upon the word "counsel" by the act of the city authorities, and that they shall pay such counsel. It is at least doubtful in my mind, as the words "or other persons accused" were added to the resolution, all doubt as to the passage of the resolution was removed, and I believe that even the risk shall be taken that the city may have to pay for counsel so employed. I am, therefore, obliged to disapprove of the resolution.

JOSEPH MEDILL, Mayor.

RECONSIDERATION.

Ald. Gill moved to reconsider the vote by which the resolution was passed.

Ald. McGrath claimed that the motion was out of order, because more than twenty weeks had elapsed since the resolution was passed.

Ald. Daggy moved to place on file the Mayor's communication.

Ald. Holden said the charter required the Council to proceed at once to act on the question of reconsideration.

Ald. Gill plaintained that it was in order to reconsider, because this was the first regular meeting of the Council since the passage of the resolution.

Ald. McGrath withdrew his point of order.

The motion to reconsider was then passed, and the matter was placed on file.

JOHN SUMMERFIELD'S RIGHT.

A communication from the Mayor, enclosing an opinion of the Corporation Counsel as to John Summerfield's right to hold office (previously published in THE TRIBUNE) was referred to the Committee on Police.

DON'T LIKE THEM.

A communication was received from the Board of Public Works, expressing dissatisfaction with the "miner" street lamps ordered by the Council, and advising that no more be used. Referred to the Committee on Gaslight.

Reports and ordinances for sidewalk on Market street, and for gas-lighting West Lake street, were severally referred.

THE BOILER INSPECTOR.

Ald. Schaffner inquired if the Boiler Inspector had resigned.

The Clerk announced that there was no need of a resignation, as the office was vacant by reason of Metzke's not having qualified within the fifteen days required by the charter.

Ald. Schaffner took occasion to deny the statement of Metzke, to the effect that the appointment was unsolicited by him. The fact was, Metzke was appointed, not on account of his fitness, but because he had been unfortunate.

The Clerk then read Metzke's letter of resignation, in which he recommends the appointment of Assistant Inspector Warner to the vacant position.

On motion of Ald. Schaffner, the resignation was accepted.

Ald. Clark moved to proceed with the election of a Boiler Inspector.

Ald. Gill took the motion out of order.

Ald. Gill took exception to the ruling of the Chair.

Ald. McGrath was opposed to going into an election now. The question of fitness for the position should be carefully considered.

The motion to proceed was lost, and put Ald. Clarke's motion, which was carried.

Ald. Bateham nominated Mr. Ryan for Boiler Inspector.

Ald. McCaffrey nominated John D. Murphy.

Ald. Otis nominated Wm. Barag'wanath.

Ald. Gill presented a petition of numerous citizens in favor of John D. Murphy.

Ald. McGrath said that those things ought to be referred to a special committee to decide on fitness.

Ald. Daggy said that McGrath was not so particular when he voted for the hatter.

Ald. McGrath inquired how it was known that he voted for "the hatter."

Ald. Gill replied: "Because he got 31 votes."

The Council proceeded to ballot with the following result:

Whole number of votes	32
Necessary to a choice	17
William Ryan	3
John D. Murphy	26
William Barag'wanath	3

John D. Murphy was declared duly elected.

VACATION OF STREETS AND ALLEYS.

A communication was received from the Corporation Counsel, giving his opinion on the power of the Common Council to vacate streets and alleys, to the effect that, according to the Constitution of 1870, no such power exists, where damages to persons or property, or to the public, that the Council may vacate where the property-owners are unanimous in favor of the vacation. The opinion was ordered published.

CONSTABLES' PROCLAMATIONS.

A communication was read from the City Clerk, inclosing bids for the printing of the proclamations of the Council proceedings, designating the lowest bid. Referred.

Ald. Holden moved to reconsider the vote by which the resolution was passed.

Ald. McGrath claimed that the motion was out of order, because more than twenty weeks had elapsed since the resolution was passed.

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LONDON.

Some Facts About Governing in England.

The Inner Life of Officials.

Mr. Arthur Helps' "Thoughts Upon Government."

From Our Special Correspondent.

LONDON, Dec. 19.

Mr. Arthur Helps, the well-known author, who is also Clerk to the Privy Council, complains that the functions of that body have not been sufficiently rated by constitutional historians, though he believes it is one which might most profitably be adopted in other countries. There have been occasions of danger in the histories of most nations, when the existence of such a body as the Privy Council of England would, he contends, have been a great safeguard to the State. Now, what is this privy Council?

One characteristic of Mr. Helps' favorite institution as it now exists is, that it includes almost all those persons who have borne high office. Of the matters of administration that come before the Government to be decided, there is not, perhaps, one in a hundred that is purely of a party nature; and it is found most useful that there should be a body, formed of the best men of business of all parties, from whom committees may be chosen to hear and decide upon the questions at issue. But the Privy Council has other uses. In times of emergency, a State that has to resort to the expedient of summary Legislative Assemblies is at a disadvantage; and in these times, when responsibility is dreaded more than anything, the "Executive," or Cabinet of Ministers, hesitates to act with the necessary speed and vigor. In the Privy Council, Great Britain possesses a consultative body, not of large numbers, and out of the form of politics, which has the power to direct the immediate execution of the measure it may resolve to take. New objects for governmental action have arisen of late years, and the matters connected with them have been in the first instance submitted to the Privy Council, or a committee of the Council. As the objects aimed at have become more extensive, and have been found to be in consonance with the wishes of the public, the business relating to them has greatly increased. Ultimately it has been found advisable to form separate Departments, to deal with and control the various matters in question. This is the origin of the several Departments of the Privy Council.

Department of the State (not of the Privy Council), consists, for the most part, of a high political officer in one or other of the Houses of Parliament. To aid him, there is a political Under-Secretary, a permanent Under-Secretary, a Chief Clerk, and, perhaps, four or five senior clerks. The permanent officer is generally chosen with great care. He is often a person who is distinguished for general knowledge and ability, and, through his political chief, is tempted to think that, unless he makes many comments and objections to the proposals of the permanent officer, he may be supposed not to understand the business at all. The practical result is, that these high permanent officers, and not the political chief, do, in fact, rule. I have generally found," they say Mr. Helps, "that these two classes of official men speak well of one another, become attached to one another, and wish to live peaceably end by becoming sincere friends."

There is scarcely a more important office under Government than that of Private Secretary to a Cabinet Minister. The choice in the first instance, most frequently falls upon a young man. The relation of parties in this country, unlike that of other countries, has, in fact, as the whole, as little of hostile bitterness, that the Private Secretary is generally recommended by the outgoing to the incoming Minister, and the recommendation is accepted. Thus it often happens that a man is often employed for many years as a Private Secretary to successful Ministers.

Mr. Helps, I regret to say, is opposed to appointments in the Government service through competitive examinations. But on this head, like so many officials of the old school, he has strong prejudices. The author of "Friends in Council" entered the public service immediately after leaving the University, and has held in succession several important offices, and his present post as clerk of councils him to have some insight into the working of all the offices of the Crown. But he is so unsophisticated as to aver that he knows nothing of "jobbery." In another of his valuable works, called "Thoughts upon Government," published this day only—"I have served under many political chiefs. I suppose I must have been very fortunate—but I have never seen a case of jobbery in a just one,—for, if I were sit in a witness-box, and asked, upon my oath, to disclose any particular instance of jobbery of which I had been cognizant, I should be unable to name a single one. This is an astounding assertion. Before the competitive system was introduced, at least three-fourths of the appointments to the minor offices in the Civil Service of the country fell into the very member of Parliament whose party happened to be in power sought to retain his seat by procuring places for the relatives of his constituents, altogether irrespective of qualifications. Another of Mr. Helps never heard, apparently, of the telegram at the time of the war in the Crimea, from the Minister of War, which was at first thought to communicate an important event, and was found to say merely that the name of "Dowb" (he said "Dowb" being one of the family.

Dwelling upon the pressure put upon leading statesmen when in office, Mr. Helps mentions the following. It refers, I believe, to Mr. Bright: "Going into the office of one of these statesmen early one morning, I found his Private Secretary packing up the letters that had arrived for his chief by the morning's post. This Minister, whose enforced absence from official life we have now to deplore, was then failing in health, and was about to go to the Continent for a country, to obtain some rest. I remarked to the Secretary that it was a large batch of letters. 'Yes,' he replied; 'I had the curiosity to count them; there are 100. These are only the private letters that have arrived this morning. The official letters are first opened and sent by us in the office. Then there will be another batch of private as well as public letters to be forwarded in the afternoon.' This was hard work, for the number tells; but it is not peculiar to statesmen. I know how you are circumstanced in the office of The Chicago Tribune. Will I believe the letters received by the daily papers here equal that amount. I am acquainted with an unhappy individual, who is on a Monday morning opened and deals with, in some form or other, 100 letters. With newspaper readers here, Sunday is the letter-writing day. They write to the newspapers then, and so they write to them on Monday. People ought to exercise more forbearance to Ministers. Ministers are made of iron, and nobody else is."

The Clerk of the Privy Council, wedded, as he is, to things as they are, thinks it impossible, or at least, that it would be very difficult, if it were possible, to maintain the Lords as a second Chamber for legislation, if the hereditary principle underlie in the condition of that legislative body. He desires to see life-Peerages granted by the Crown; that certain offices, when held for a certain term of years, should entitle the man who has held them to a seat in the House of Lords; that no hereditary Peer should be able to take his seat in the Upper House until he has reached the age of 30, or to sit in the House of Commons for five years after he succeeds to the title; that an hereditary noble shall not be obliged to take his seat until five years have elapsed from his succession to the Peerage. These recommendations show how far the dissatisfaction with the House of Lords has penetrated. The book, in which the argument appears, is dedicated to Lord Derby, an old friend of the writer. This reminds me that Mr. Helps has made political action, and puts a person who he calls "The Improver" in contrast with the Reformer—Lord Derby being a type of the latter. We shall see what the "Improver" will do. They certainly did not get the blessing of Free Trade, nor did abolish the vile laws which kept half the Union in servitude. The people have, indeed, got the first of all reforms, turned from it by any of the bribes proffered by those who would make them the obedient slaves of a paternal Government.

The Message of Governor Austin.

From the St. Paul Press, Jan. 5.

The total receipts of this State from all sources reach the large sum of $913,136, and the total disbursements $716,636—omitting from the account of the receipts, $410,196 exempt from direct taxation, the rents from school and university lands, income from school university funds, and other miscellaneous sources. Of the expenditures, but $103,661 were for the State Government proper, $201,000 for the support of State institutions, $50,000 for public buildings, and the rest for printing, investments in school bonds, &c.

The only recognized debt of the State is the "permanent school fund, so that the State owes the debt to itself. The amount which has been expended from the interest of public funds in the education of children in the public schools is $681,056. The taxes paid by the people of Minnesota for State, school, and county purposes is $2,763,756. Of this sum the sum of the sixth, or $454,794, is paid for State purposes, nearly a third of which goes to the schools, and much the larger part, or more than half, for municipal purposes.

The Governor estimates that current expenses of the State for all the funds in the Treasury, leaving nothing whatever for the public institutions which are crying for help and crippled for the want of it. He therefore advises regretfully to the conclusion that the people must submit to heavier taxes to borrow money for building purposes, and shows that the only remaining resource is either to stop the extension of these buildings, or else to add to the taxes $200,000 which are required for them, and it is now here to be accepted that the State must borrow. This dilemma is likely to form one of the most important subjects which the Legislature will have to consider.

The cash contributions for the relief of sufferers by fire and hail in this State amount to $11,076.35, of which $10,337.07 has been disbursed in sums not to exceed $100 to any one family. In addition, clothing, &c., to the amount of $10,600 and provisions worth $1,000, have been distributed.

JEALOUSY IN JERSEY.

Account of the Shooting Affair at Spotswood—What the Parties are said to Have Led to the Occurrence—The Story of Mrs. Commodore Chauncey.

From the New York World, Jan. 5.

Spotswood, N. J., is a quiet little place, about seven miles from Trenton. About eight years ago Spotswood society was rather startled by the advent of a dashing young woman, who bought a large residence at one end of the village, and, being the wife of Commodore Chauncey of the United States navy, well educated, and comparatively possessing plenty of means, created comment enough. Somehow or other Mrs. Chauncey associated very little with the elite of Spotswood society. Whether it was because she was a woman of culture and the village people were not, or whether it was because she was known to be living apart from her husband, after having gained some rather unenviable notoriety in a divorce suit with the Commodore, is a point on which Spotswood authorities differ quite widely. She was born and had been brought up in New Brunswick and its vicinity, and was well known to many of the people in the neighborhood. Being a brunette, with a trim little figure, regular features, and a good deal of feminine attractive powers, she had never suffered from want of attention on the part of the hardy villagers, some of whom were quite wild when she caught so much better game in the person of a Commodore. And when, after a remarkably eventful life for a lady, passing much of her time in New York and her summers at watering-places, she came back and re-established herself in Spotswood, in a rural mansion alone with her servants, if rumor be credited, she was again the coveted prize of her old flames.

Among these, however, one who had known her from childhood, and who had been to school with her—a man named Daniel Snowhill—soon distanced the rest. For these eight years he has been extremely attentive to her; and the matters connected with the village thought proper, as her husband was living till about eight months ago. Snowhill, according to her own account, was none too gentle a lover, and as she herself was exacting, he might be inferred they did not always get on smoothly together. Rumor had it, too, that she had much reason for remonstrance with one who aspired to her hand, as Snowhill was said to be intimate with two others. Snowhill is the telegraph operator of Spotswood, occupies quite a prominent position in the place, is rather good looking, and about 40 years of age. As time went by rumors of his attentions to other quarters reached Mrs. Chauncey's ear, as such rumors will, and, as a consequence, trouble ensued between the two. In several quarrels which they had Snowhill was threatened with personal injuring him. Such little exhibitions of temper, or indignation, however, do not appear to have changed their mutual relations, and the strange friendship went on. But the crisis came, which has materially altered matters, on the evening of the 28th ult.

According to the statement of one of the principal gentlemen of the place, the story is as follows: For several days Mrs. Chauncey had been making dire threats of mysterious significance against "Dan" and "two others," and on the afternoon of the 28th she had been practising shooting at a target, which was repeatedly noised abroad and created no little excitement. In the evening there was to be a "variety wedding" at the hotel—a sort of benefit to Mr. and Mrs. Ermee, who were to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of their marriage. About 10 p. m. Mrs. Chauncey (accompanied by a nephew and a friend) dressed in male attire, set out for the party. The nephew carried a bundle, which they left at a little candy shop near the hotel, and contained a pair of revolvers. While there, a sister of Snowhill came in and, in terror at the threats which Mrs. Chauncey had uttered brought her with Snowhill, by request, in mercy to her, not to "kill Dan." All of no avail, however for the indignant woman replied, in nanistakable terms, repeating her intention of settling the matter. Snowhill thereupon epithets of a decidedly derogatory nature, and the sister finally prevailed on her to accompany her to Snowhill's residence, and there obtained her promise to let him go unharmed.

"Well," she said, "I won't harm your poor little brother." She then repaired to Irmee's Hotel, where the party was in full blast, and whither Snowhill's sister followed still at ease, followed her, and watched operations from the other side of the street. Mrs. Chauncy took up her position on the piazza, while her attendant satellites entered the house and took part in the festivities. She then called Snowhill out on the piazza, and, after a remarkably eventful life for a lady, passing much of her time in New York and her summers at watering-places, she came back and re-established herself in Spotswood, in a rural mansion alone with her servants, if rumor be credited, she was again the coveted prize of her old flames.

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Most of the important points of Mrs. Chauncey's story the people of the village pronounce utterly false, all except the Lovelace character of Snowhill which they seem to acquiesce in readily enough.

Squire Appleby and the "Mutual Protection Society" are prosecuting the matter, examining witnesses with the rate of speed proverbial in ponderous bodies. The nephew and the young man, Walter Monsman, have been arrested, but released on bail, and express total ignorance of everything relating to the occurrence. The Squire hopes before many days to investigate the matter sufficiently to enable him to fix the amount of bail in Mrs. Chauncey's case, though the doctor's idea that "they'd better both cry quits," seems to be the most sensible view to take of the matter.

SINGULAR INCENDIARISM.

The Suspicious Fire in Barclay Street, New York—Strange Revelations of Love and Revenge—Three Persons Held for Arson.

From the New York Times, Jan. 5.

An investigation was commenced yesterday by Fire-Marshal McSpedon, in relation to the fire which occurred on the previous evening in the crockery store of E. H. Schreve, on the first floor of No. 50 Barclay street. When the fire was discovered by the patrolman he was astonished to find the key in the door on the outside, and, on opening the door, was much more surprised to see a woman lying on the floor stupefied by smoke, and the store on fire in two places. The fire was extinguished, without much damage being done, and the woman being taken out, was soon revived, and held to await an examination by the Fire Marshal. The woman questioned yesterday, and stated that her name is Harriet Wilson, that she lives at No. 181 Greenwich street, and she had been in intimate relations with the former partner of Schreve. Wednesday they quarrelled, and the latter, suspecting that Harriet was about to cast her off, she took the key of the store, without the knowledge of Schreve, and went there with the intention of obtaining from the papers of her lover which she supposed would strengthen her hold upon him. She denies all knowledge of the origin of the fire, but as she had a lighted kerosene lamp with her, supposes the lamp may have got into the store by accident, but professes not to have the least idea of how it occurred. These explanations were not satisfactory to the Fire Marshal, and he continued the investigation. John McDonald, detective of the Third Precinct, testified that he saw Harriet Wilson at the Station House immediately after the fire, and she told him of her difficulty with Schreve, it was carried on by Farrington. She asserted she had often heard them complain that they must get rid of the insurance, and, in addition, Schreve, that night Farrington had abused her, and went away; she asked him to come back, and he said he would, in fifteen minutes; but as he did not return in that time she took the key of the store from the coat-pocket of Schreve, who was asleep, and went to the store, expecting to find Farrington there with other women. Had found out his interest to Schreve, but she thought the sale was a sham one. When she got to the store she found no one there, but saw what she thought was evidence of incendiarism. Farrington had lately been going on, then took some pieces of paper, lighted them, and threw them around the store, intending to set fire to the goods, and perish in the flames. She offered to show McDonald where she got the key, and he went with her to the house, No. 181 Greenwich street, where Schreve was found asleep, and in the front parlor. Being informed of the fire, dressed himself, and was surprised on not finding the key in his pocket, thus confirming the story of the girl, that he knew nothing of her having taken it. She was in the habit of keeping a pair of pistols in a bureau. Harriet tried to get her trunk, for she purpose, she said, of getting a revolver to shoot herself with, and, on leaving, she attempted to jump over the stairs.

T. B. Farrington, the latter testified that he had no knowledge of the fire until after it had occurred; on a former occasion the store had been mysteriously entered, and an order book torn to shreds; he then had the lock changed, and he did not then suspect the woman, Harriet; since the recent revelations, however, he is of opinion she entered the store on that occasion; about two weeks ago there was another fire in his store, and on that occasion also he missed his keys.

Lafayette Bergh, a boy, testified that he formerly lived at No. 181 Greenwich street with Schreve; knew Harriet Wilson, who is sometimes known as Harriet Tackleburry, under which name she gives exhibitions as a spiritual medium; she has queer freaks, hallucs, and goes on like a crazy woman; he had never had a quarrel with her, although she had followed him in the streets, and threatened to shoot him; was at his house, No. 181 Greenwich street, Wednesday afternoon; she would not let him out of the house; finally asked him to get her some whiskey, which he said he would; under this he got away. The witness then went on to account for his whereabouts from 6 o'clock in the evening until yesterday morning, to show that he was not the incendiary of the fire. He said he is not now in business, but was formerly in the crockery business at No. 50 Barclay street; took the business from his son, and a Mr. Sexias; kept it but a short time, and finally sold it to Mr. Schreve for $9,000, in November last.

The woman, Harriet Tackleburry, was again put on the stand, and gave a detailed account of her life during the past two years, which is unfit for publication. She claimed to have lived with Farrington, and gave details of some outrages he had perpetrated upon her. She had been shown by the testimony of Policeman Coffee that when he discovered the fire he found the door locked, with the key outside. Harriet swore positively that Schreve was awake when she took the key, and saw her do it; that he knew she was going to the store; that she had been in the store but a few minutes when Schreve came in, and calling her a "crazy fool," went down the cellar. As these statements were directly contrary to all she had made before, she denied all the prior ones' version. She claimed to be above the intrigue, and to have done the name of the whole affair, it was carried on by Farrington. She asserted she had often heard them complain that they must get rid of the insurance, and, in addition, Schreve, that night Farrington had abused her, and went away; she asked him to come back, and he said he would, in fifteen minutes; but as he did not return in that time she took the key of the store from the coat-pocket of Schreve, who was asleep, and went to the store, expecting to find Farrington there with other women. Had found out his interest to Schreve, but she thought the sale was a sham one. When she got to the store she found no one there, but saw what she thought was evidence of incendiarism. Farrington had lately been going on, then took some pieces of paper, lighted them, and threw them around the store, intending to set fire to the goods, and perish in the flames. She offered to show McDonald where she got the key, and he went with her to the house, No. 181 Greenwich street, where Schreve was found asleep, and in the front parlor. Being informed of the fire, dressed himself, and was surprised on not finding the key in his pocket, thus confirming the story of the girl, that he knew nothing of her having taken it. She was in the habit of keeping a pair of pistols in a bureau. Harriet tried to get her trunk, for the purpose, she said, of getting a revolver to shoot herself with, and, on leaving, she attempted to jump over the stairs.

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LEET AND HIS LOOT.

Whether or not the Retrenchment Committee of the Senate desires to elicit any information bearing unfavorably upon the character of the administration of the New York Custom House, there can be no question that a considerable mass of such information has been contributed by the witnesses thus far summoned. Of these, the most important have been Mr. Lewis, of the New York *Evening Post*, and Mr. John P. Lindsay. The testimony of the latter gentleman refers mainly to the "General Order business" of Leet and Stocking, of which we have heard so much. Mr. Lindsay is spoken of, by the New York *Tribune*, as a merchant of many years' experience in New York, and the confidential adviser of Moses H. Grinnell while that gentleman was in the Collector's office. He is the person to whom Mr. Grinnell entrusted the duty of reorganizing the General Order business, in the spring of 1869; the purpose being, as Lindsay believes, to protect better the interests of the Government; though the effect of the system, corrupt as it has become under the Leet and Stocking administration, is, according to A. T. Stewart's testimony, "only to harass and tax the merchants of New York." We have seen no attempt to impeach the credibility of Mr. Lindsay's testimony; and though Senators Stewart and Howe, acting on the promptings of Leet himself and one Bliss, the confidential man of Murphy, questioned him very sharply, his statements were invariably left uncontradicted, and with every internal indication of straightforwardness. From this testimony we learn:

1. That Leet was, during the latter years of the war, a sort of Aide-de-Camp on General Grant's staff, having entered the army from Chicago.

2. That shortly before General Grant became President, and before Mr. Grinnell was appointed Collector, Mr. Leet came to New York, bearing a letter from Grant, and requesting Grinnell to do what he could for Leet. It was then given out by Leet that Grinnell was to be appointed Collector; and Leet afterward, when complaining that the profits of his office were not sufficient, declared his ability to remove Grinnell from his office, unless he (G.) should do more for him.

3. That the object of Leet's errand to New York was, as he stated to Lindsay, "plums," —an expression which was explained to mean "political business connected with the Custom House, anything that money can be made out of."

4. That, in accordance with the President's letter and Leet's construction of it, a "plum" was fixed up for him, viz., a partnership in the General Order business along with one Bixby, the latter furnishing the warehouses and defraying all other expenses, and paying Leet $5,000 a year besides, in return for his "influence,"—an influence that Collector Grinnell and the Secretary of the Treasury found it impossible to counteract, when urged by the oppressed merchants to do so.

5. It appears further that Leet's letters to Lindsay, during the two years following this, were dated at the White House; also, that the reason assigned by him for an increase of his allowance was, that the $5,000 was insufficient to defray his portion of the expenses of the "mess" of young officers at the Executive Mansion; also, that Leet was, during the most of this period, continuing to draw $4,000 a year as an army officer nominally on duty at the War Department.

6. It appears that Leet's duties at New York were as follows:

Q. Was that [the $5,000 referred to, in the way of a salary, or as the result of a business? A. As less result of a business.

Q. Did he give any personal attention to that business? A. *Not any of it, sir.*

Q. If it was done as a business, it was done by his agents? A. Done by his partners, I should think. [Lindsay supposing Bixby to be a partner of his, because they divided the overplus.]

Q. Did he devote any of the time which he spent in the city to the attention of the Government to one in the service of the Government to this General Order business? A. *No, sir; only going down to Washington.*

Senator Frelinghuysen. Did Colonel Leet put any capital in this business? A. *Not a dollar.*

Senator Howe. Was rendering personal services to the warehouses? A. Not that I ever saw or heard of, sir.

7. It appears that, about the time Grinnell made way for Murphy in the Collector's office, another Washington character, one Wm. F. Stocking, appeared in New York in the capacity of Superintendent of cartmen; at the same time the safeguards which Grinnell had thrown around the General Order warehousing business were thrown off, and the cartmen voluntarily relinquished 20 per cent of their ostensible earnings in order to defray the salary of Stocking as "Superintendent." The record of this Stocking for the past ten years includes a period as Government contractor in camp hardware; another; Government employer about Washington; and contractor to furnish guns to the Mexican Government, in partnership with one Sturm, the agent of that Government.

It should be still further mentioned that the agreement with Bixby (of which Lindsay produces a memorandum in Leet's own handwriting) stipulated further that all profits above $10,000 per year (and all profits were net, so far as Leet was concerned, Bixby being bound for all the expenses) should be divided equally between the two; and it was because, under the restrictions imposed by Grinnell, these profits did not greatly exceed the limit mentioned, that Stocking was sent on, as a man used to handling "plums," and the task assigned for preventing fraud abolished. It is now estimated that the profits of the General Order business to Leet, Stocking & Co. are over $100,000 per annum, all of which is assessed, in the way of blackmail, upon the importers, and through them upon the consumers of the goods, and no cent of which goes to the Government.

Messrs. Howe and Stewart are listening, in spite of themselves, to some very damaging testimony from victims of blackmailers located directly in the Custom House, and from other witnesses—intelligent and credible men,—giving positive statements of the corrupt methods of making appointments, and of controlling political results by the most scandalous perversion of official powers. Enough has been elicited already to more than justify the demand of Senator Trumbull for a committee of inquiry, and the general popular agitation for a sweeping reform of the Civil Service.

The report of the Labor Commission authorized lately by Congress will be looked forward to with great interest. We hope that their labors may result in teaching a few sound truths of political economy to those who style themselves "the working classes." Now that their representatives are becoming more and more prominent in politics, their lack of such knowledge is painfully evident. The "laboring men" of Connecticut held a convention at Bridgeport, indulged in the popular pastime of "organizing a new party," and adopted a long series of resolutions. In these, amid a curious compound of good sense, vituperation, and "advanced" radical ideas, there occurs the following:

Resolved, That the recent attempt of the Executive and Legislative authorities of this State to negotiate a higher rate of interest on money, is a direct attempt to impose additional burdens on labor, and perpetuate an oppressive system of robbery and public plunder.

Notwithstanding the fact that a number of States have nominal laws against usury, money is practically unfettered throughout the country, and, in *every* county and city in the United States, is loaned at more than the legal rates, when the legal rate is lower than the market rate. The law is violated because popular sentiment condemns it. Jeremy Bentham, nearly a century ago, demonstrated the futility, and consequent horridity, of all such legislative enactments. Money is merchandise, or, more properly, the right to command merchandise; like merchandise, it is subject only to the laws of supply and demand, and defies any regulation by other laws. An attempt to enforce an usury law would be the worst possible thing for labor. If it were absolutely necessary for a man to borrow money, he would have to pay higher rates than if there were no enactments whatever on the subject. For, suppose that money is worth 7 per cent. The Legislature makes 6 per cent the legal rate of interest. Two results will follow: Men who are unwilling to violate the law will withdraw their capital to places where they can reap a full return for the use of their past savings. "Industry is limited by Capital," and hence there will be less demand for labor. The other result will be, that other capitalists will make secret loans. The borrower cannot get these loans for the legal 6 per cent, but must pay more than 7. The withdrawal of capital will have made what remains dearer than before; and then, too, the increased risk which the lender runs must be compensated for by increased returns. Enforcing such laws will, then, make money dearer instead of cheaper, and will diminish the demand for labor. It is tyranny for a State, while allowing dealers in all other sorts of merchandise to buy and sell at will, and get what gain they can, to single out one particular article, and say to dealers in it, "You must sell your wares, not at your prices, but at mine." Let money alone, and, like water, it will find its own level. If, in the well-nigh universal passion for governmental interference with everything, it cannot be let alone, it is to the interest of the laboring classes, even more than the capitalists, that the legal rate at which money may be loaned should be above the actual market value of the commodity. In this way, the law will, of course, be a dead letter, as the present ones are; but there will be this advantage, that, unlike the present ones, it will never be broken.

SYMPATHY FOR FISK.

It is one of the curious phases of popular fickleness, that, while Fisk Junior was alive, there was no man so hardy as to endorse or justify either the private or public acts of the man; but no sooner has that worthless life come to a stop, than a feeling of sympathy springs up for him—if we may credit the despatches—in the very scene of his depredations. It is hard to account for such a sudden change. There was certainly nothing in his life to call for it. His public career shows a record which is thoroughly depraved and unscrupulous. He had no legitimate business. He was an adventurer, whose aim it was as he often himself expressed it—to be the richest man in America. To accomplish this end he stopped at nothing. His thieving operations were on so stupendous a scale, that they appalled men by their very magnitude. Little by little, he accumulated power and influence sufficient to corrupt Courts and Legislatures, defy juries, and suborn witnesses. His private life was worse than his public. His gross, coarse, illiterate, vulgar manner alone would have kept him out of good society, and to this he added the most flaunting and disgusting profligacy. Everything with which he was connected,—his establishments in New York, the residences of his mistresses, the Grand Opera House with its harem of French courtesans, and his Fall River steamboats,—all shared the loathsome character of their owner. With such a reputation, which he never cared to conceal, it is no wonder that he never was able to get a single introduction into good society. Often as he made the attempt, and with the influence of all his money, he was never able to effect an engagement with a reputable troupe of artists for his places of amusement, while respectable people always shunned his steamboats, gorgeous and magnificently-appointed as they were, when it was possible to travel by any other mode. The sudden sympathy, therefore, cannot be attributed either to his public or private acts, which were notoriously infamous.

It is urged that he was generous to his friends and kind to his employes. But Bill Sikes was generous and kind to his dog, and the down-on-his-luck did the dirty work which Sikes expected of him all the better for it. Grant that he was generous with his money; whose money was he spending? He could not show a clear title to a dollar in his pocket. It was the money he had cleared by the plunder of a stolen railroad. Tweed was generous in the same fashion. Tweed procured his own bail with this kind of generosity. He gave to his son a million and a half of dollars, which he had obtained by public plunder, and his son qualified, thereby making the tax-payers of New York, who were the prosecutors, go bail for the prisoner. Another instance of this generosity was manifested when Fisk presented to Miss Tweed, upon the occasion of her marriage, the famous icebowl,—an occasion which must have been regarded as a remarkably good joke by both Tweed and Fisk. Any sympathy based upon such grounds as these must be of the flimsiest description, and about as sincere as the ostentatious grief of hired mourners at a funeral.

The only cause for sympathy which we can discover lies in the manner of his taking off, and in the fact itself. His assassination was cowardly in every respect. No romance can attach to a man who dogs another about, watches his opportunity, and, when unperceived, shoots him from ambush, without giving him a moment for defence. If Stokes had met Fisk, man to man, each equally prepared,—if he had even irritated him by bluster and provoked him to strike him and then shot him—if he had even adopted the mode of Southern chivalry, met him face to face, inquired of him if he was armed, told him to look out for himself, and then shot him before he had time to look out for himself,—men would have found some little palliation for the offence. But the man who shoots another down by stealth cannot expect any sympathy, or any result other than the establishment of some sort of sympathy for his victim.

But sympathy for Fisk can only be temporary at best. The evil which he has done may live after him, but his name and fame and sympathy are things of a day. Those upon whom his friendship made any claim have too much to mourn for in their own lives to mourn for him long. Those upon whom he lavished his affections are not of the class to mourn for any one, so long as there are other rich fools to be bled. But it is to be hoped that this sympathy may last long enough to secure the hanging of Stokes, in which event the world will be rid of two bad characters at once.

Mrs. Laura Fair, the murderess of Crittenden, has, by continuing in robust health, instead of verifying the telegram announcing her death, devolved a painful duty upon the Sheriff of San Francisco; a duty from which, nevertheless, he should not shrink,—viz., that of hanging Mrs. Fair according to the sentence passed upon her by the Court. This sentence was the result of an impartial trial and a most elaborate and ingenious defence. Its faithful execution, without Executive interference, is depended upon by society to enforce a much-needed lesson of law and order, and of impartial justice.

Judge Treat yesterday overruled the demurrer filed in the cases of the indicted Aldermen. He decided that Aldermen were included in the description of judicial and ministerial officers, and therefore amenable to the statute against bribery. This decision having been made, the trial of these cases will commence on Monday next.

The postal-telegraph project seems to have received new life since Cyrus W. Field announced his adhesion to it, at the banquet which closed the labors of the Telegraphic Conference in Rome, a week ago. From the abuse of it, the cry of "Centralisation!" in this country has become very much like the Greek shepherd's call of "Wolf!"—but yet a measure of this sort may be fraught with grave results. It is adding another to the already enormous burdens of the Central Government. Controlling any such enterprise is going outside the legitimate sphere of a Republic's workings. Since the great telegraph corporation is unwilling to sell its property, either the people's money will have to be wasted in paying an enormous price therefor, or else the property will be legally (or illegally) condemned for the benefit of the Government,—a measure which can be justified only by the plea of urgent necessity, which certainly cannot be admitted here. The argument which some gentlemen draw from the experiment of the English in taking control of their system, is of little weight. There are only 23,000 miles of lines in Great Britain, to 72,000 in the United States. All the British lines, or a great majority of them, were paying well when the Government assumed charge of them, which is by no means the case with us. Then, again, the experiment has been tried too short a time to draw any reliable inference therefrom. There is no great hurry about the matter. Better wait and watch the result of the system abroad before we introduce it at home.

Horace Greeley, in the New York *Ledger*, delivers a disquisition on "Learning Without Teachers," or, in more familiar words, on "Self-Made Men." In it, he strongly advises the "moneyless youth, athirst for knowledge," not to go to college and run into debt to pay his way, but to select whatever trade he prefers, and stick to that, studying in his spare hours. At the end of three years he will be acquainted—or, at least, Mr. Greeley says so—with his trade, and with chemistry, geology, and botany. Having acquired these, he is, of course, to practise his trade and continue his studies. The "moneyless youth, athirst for knowledge," who, in the spare hours of three years, should be able to acquire these three sciences, would be a sight for gods and men. Chemistry can be thoroughly learned only by practical work in the laboratory, and how could our "moneyless youth" do this? Geology may be a little less imperfectly learned, but botany demands work in the field as well as in the house. The fact is, that self-made men have been defined to such an extent that the average young American is disposed to think that he has a rather better chance to succeed in the world if he is not college-bred, and so, echoing Mr. Greeley's cry, "Deliver me from college-graduates and all other horned cattle," he helps to swell the vast number of the half-educated. If the "moneyless youth, athirst for knowledge," should spend three years in study at, for instance, the Polytechnic School, at Troy, or the Sheffield Scientific School, at New Haven, he would be fitted for a position far above what he could hope to gain in Mr. Greeley's way. At both of these colleges, if we are not misinformed, and certainly at the latter, a young man can support himself by honorable industry throughout his course, and, instead of devoting his spare hours to unguided, and, therefore, probably misdirected, study, can bend all his energies to intellectual work, and reap the advantages of instruction by able men, and the use of great collections of apparatus, museums, and the like. The graduates of both are eagerly sought after for responsible positions, and for years neither has been able fully to supply the demand upon it. If our "moneyless youth" really thirst after knowledge, they can drink it to their fill in these and similar nurseries of learning, and find it instantly available for the struggle of life.

The following petition to Congress is being circulated in this State:

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled:

We, the undersigned, citizens of the State of Illinois, would most respectfully represent and request that, whereas the manufacturers of the country are asking for duties on imports for the benefit of various enterprises, and, whereas, while we think they are sufficiently remunerative even without any duty, and that all such legislation should be avoided, as tending to create a wholly unnecessary, and an intolerable tax on the real industry of the country—the farmers, the mechanics, and all other laborers; we, therefore, must and do consider them, in keeping such advantages, to be no less than the worst species of bounty, if they should be imported at the expense of the country, they should be classed with other paupers and supported in the same way, and, therefore, we ask the Congress of the whole country, which we believe to be the most equitable and economical method of providing for such cases.

We, therefore, most respectfully but earnestly solicit your earnest consideration of this subject, and that *direct taxation of property be made* the only source of revenue for the payment of the national debt, the support of the Government, and all other purposes, and that all the paupers and beggars who throng the National Capitol asking for subsidies, land grants, or other advantages, be left to shift for themselves in the country. We think property should be taxed rather than persons, which falls more heavily on the poor, and most earnestly pray, and respectfully submit to your serious consideration.

While the logic of the first paragraph of this appeal is undoubtedly correct, with the "if" in it, we cannot but advise our readers against signing the petition. They might sign it, and Congress enact as it requests, under the confident belief that the class of "sturdy beggars" referred to would refuse to take the proffered bounty on grounds of self-respect,—a confidence which the past history of the tariff dead-beats of the iron, salt, and other monopolies does not justify. They would swarm to the trough of the people's bounty, now that they took it for the benefit of their poor workmen, and—ask for more.

Victor Hugo has been defeated for the French Assembly by M. Vaudrain, and the announcement will be received with very general satisfaction. As a politician, Hugo has always been rash, hot-headed, and dogmatic. He has not the patience to examine any question in comprehensive way, or ability to legislate in a statesmanlike manner, and the very worst use to which he could possibly put himself would be to put himself into political life, from which he has been banished so long. As a rule French literary men make bad politicians, and French politicians make bad *litterateurs*. M. Michelet is another instance of this fact. L'Oiseau and the history of the Roman Republic were admirable instances of epigrammatic and descriptive writing; but his political life and political writings have failed to escape the ridicule of both. And so of Lamartine and Louis Blanc. Louis Napoleon was for years a successful politician, but in literature has achieved nothing which was permanent enough to outlast his downfall. The most fortunate part of Victor Hugo's life, to the world at large, is that which he spent as an exile in Jersey; and, if a second term of exile would give us such a superb work of fiction and fact as "Les Miserables," no one would object to a second decree of banishment at once.

In his annual message to the Legislature, the Governor of Minnesota states rather a peculiar fact in regard to the State Reform School. When boys become troublesome or expensive to their parents, their loving progenitors are quite apt to make out a case against them, and get them committed to the School for a term of years. This proceeding is, in fact, so common that the Governor thinks it necessary to propose some corrective measure, and suggests that parents should be obliged to defray the expenses of their sons while the latter are perforce availing themselves of the educational advantages of the institution. He defends the suggestion on two grounds: It would put an end to the abuse already explained and, by it, parents who brought up their children so badly that they deserved commitment would be obliged to indemnify the State for the expense their carelessness put it to. The part of the message relating to the Reform School closes with the recommendation that feminine teachers should be employed wherever practicable, in order to refine and polish, as far as may be, the alumni.

About three weeks ago, there suddenly appeared on a window-pane in Sun Francisco the picture of a man's face. The report of the ghostly apparition caused great excitement. Thousands went to see it, and, finally, an enterprising showman—the Barnum of the city, bought it for $250. The next day, spiritual photographs on window-panes were plenty. There were masculine faces, and feminine faces, and dog faces, and pictures of roses, and various other things, and they were all offered for sale at $250 apiece. The market was overstocked. The excess of supply killed the demand entirely. We see that the same wonderful manifestation is now occurring at Salt Lake City. The window-panes are blossoming there into life-like portraits,—two or three of them to a pane. When the maker has reaped a harvest from popular credulity there, he will probably come still farther East, and, by next summer, we may expect to hear of wonderful portraits of persons burned to death in Chicago appearing on the windows of the buildings which will by that time cover their graves.

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The last report of the Rochester tragedy comes in the speech of the State Prison Keeper, who calmly says that he is afraid the inmates of the Penitentiary will kill the negro Howard. Their sensitive natures are so excited by the criminal's presence that he cannot restrain them. The official proposes, however, to "keep Howard out of sight for about six months." In other words, he is to be punished by solitary confinement, because the officers cannot control the prisoners under their charge. When the "authors of the law" sneaked through back streets and back alleys in Rochester from fear of a lawless rabble, we ought not, perhaps, to expect that these other minions should do anything but yield to this other lawless rabble; but there is a fine field for reform in both sets of officials.

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THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

A Sweeping Reform Contemplated by the Board.

Proposed Organization of a Department of Public Charities.

Long Bonds or Short Bonds—The Value of a School Teacher.

Pursuant to appointment the Board of Cook County Commissioners assembled yesterday afternoon, in the County Treasurer's office. There were present the following Commissioners: Ashton, Crawford, Harris, Harrison, Herting, Hitchcock, Jones, Lonergan, Pahlman, Roelle, Skelly, Stearns, and White. Commissioner White presided.

MR. GAGE'S BILL AT LAST DISPOSED OF.

The Judiciary Committee, to whom was referred the bill of E. J. Gage, reported that the sum was admitted by law to a remuneration not exceeding $2 a day, and that the Board ought to pay him if the charges were reasonable.

The report was adopted.

Commissioner Hitchcock moved to take up the account.

It was so determined.

The bill amounting to $50, was taken up and ordered paid.

SWEEPING REFORM CONTEMPLATED.

Commissioner Crawford moved the adoption of the following resolutions:

Resolved, That there shall be, and is hereby, established a department of the public services of Cook County, which shall be known as the Department of Public Charities, which shall include the Poor House, Insane Asylum and farm, County Physician's and County Agent's office, and all the officials whomsoever connected with those institutions and offices, except the Medical Board of the County Hospital.

Second. The head of said department shall be the physician of the Insane Asylum and Poor House, who shall be known as Superintendent and Medical Director of Public Charities, who shall devote his entire time to the duties thereof, and shall receive as compensation $2,500 a year, which shall be in full payment for his services, and in lieu of all fees, perquisites, and charges for transportation.

Third. He shall have power to appoint an assistant, subject to the approval of this Board, who shall be known as Resident Physician at the Insane Asylum and Poor House, and shall reside thereat, and perform such duties as are now or may hereafter be required of him by the proper authority, and shall receive as such assistant for his services $1,500 a year, together with board for himself, and family (if married, consisting of his wife and not more than two children under 12 years of age, which salary shall be in full for and in lieu of duties, and perquisites, and charges for transportation.

Fourth. The said Superintendent and Medical Director shall have general supervision of the domestic economy as well as the sanitary and hygienic department of the institutions committed to his charge, and shall be held accountable for the most economical administration of their affairs compatible with the humane treatment of their unfortunate inmates. He shall visit the Poor House and Insane Asylum at least twice a week, for the purpose of inspection and consultation with the resident physician, upon such cases as might require it. He shall also visit the County Hospital, Jail, and County Agent's office as often as may be necessary to keep himself informed relative to the things therein as may properly come within the purview of the duties of this office, requiring of the County Physician such detailed duty as each of those institutions as may be necessary.

Fifth. The Superintendent and Medical Director shall make a report at the next March session of this Board and quarterly thereafter, or oftener if required by the Board, showing the number of persons supported at the expense of the county, the number of births, deaths, or escapes, and the sanitary condition of the institution, together with such information as will furnish a clear statement of the general condition and utility of and for the purposes for which power to require all his subordinates to keep and report to him all statistics and facts necessary to inform him fully as to the matters under their charge respectively.

Sixth. So much of all resolutions and directions of this Board as conflicts with these resolutions is hereby rescinded.

LAKE OVER.

Commissioner Harrison did not think it yet time to act on so important a matter. It was a change in the whole programme, one which he believed had the germ of a fine reform. It would be best to look over, and let the Board examine it in detail. From all he could learn of Dr. Miller, he was deserving of the salary of the man they would place there. As an individual, he would be glad to put his hand in his pocket and donate $100 to Dr. Miller to assist in the scheme, but he would not care to risk it as one. He would not have time. He would like to to have good officers elected, but he was unwilling to proceed without examination. If pressed, he would move that the matter be published. He had no objection to the plan till next Monday.

The Chair hoped the Board would have adjourned by Monday.

Commissioner Skelly would like to have more time to consider the question. He amended the motion to lay it over for a week.

Commissioner Hitchcock said he understood the Committee on Poor House and Paupers were going to have a meeting to-morrow afternoon (to-day); hence the question might well be postponed till Wednesday. The resolutions contained some subjects of great importance, and the views already expressed of the necessity for subordinating the actions under one head.

The motion prevailed, and the resolutions were postponed till Wednesday.

LONG OR SHORT BONDS.

The report of the Financial Committee, adopted on Friday, was taken up, and a motion made by Commissioner Stearns to reconsider it.

Commissioner Hitchcock was in favor of reconsidering.

Commissioner White, Commissioner Crawford in the chair, opposed the issue of long bonds on the ground that the interest bonds until twenty years to run would necessitate the payment of the original sum raised and nearly half as much more in interest. He regarded this as an attempt to force the county to pay 120 or 140 per cent on its paper, which was as abhorrent to him as anybody. He would not have postponed to the debt of a future generation the debt that ought to be paid to-day. Assuming that the bonds were sold at par, for twenty years and the interest would be 140 per cent. If it were in the erection of jails and public buildings, when an equivalent would be left to the future, he would certainly side with the opposition. But, for this and that, and the other, he would appropriate the tax levy as it came up.

Commissioner Hitchcock said they were attempting to fund and pay the debt of 1871, and not a debt of long standing, much of which was for building, and on war bonds issued in 1865. He would not like to see the debt of 1871 to run for long bonds, but they could be sold in New York, where short county orders could not.

Commissioner Stearns was in favor of twenty year bonds.

The resolution was not reconsidered—yeas 2; nays 14 as follows:

Yeas—Hitchcock, Stearns—2.

Nays—Ashton, Crawford, Harris, Harrison, Herting, Jones, Lonergan, Pahlman, Roelle, Skelly, White—14.

THE INTERNAL BAILIFF QUESTION.

The bills of bailiffs, so far as they were properly certified, were taken up and referred to the Committee on Miscellaneous Claims, with instructions to inquire whether the bailiffs' profit by the payment of fees for serving processes, and, if not, who collected the money thus collected.

MORE GREASING OF THE POOR.

A bill of Dymond and Swestner, for 17,000 pounds of meat and tallow for the Insane Asylum, was obliged to defray the expenses of their sons while the latter are perforce availing themselves of the educational advantages of the institution. He defends the suggestion on two grounds: It would put an end to the abuse already explained and, by it, parents who brought up their children so badly that they deserved commitment would be obliged to indemnify the State for the expense their carelessness put it to. The part of the message relating to the Reform School closes with the recommendation that feminine teachers should be employed wherever practicable, in order to refine and polish, as far as may be, the alumni.

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THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Meeting of the Commissioners—A Patrolman Dismissed for Not Paying His Debts—The Detective Force Reduced to Six Men—How to Treat Violators of the Fire Ordinances.

A regular semi-weekly meeting of the Board of Police and Fire Commissioners was held at the Madison Street Station yesterday afternoon. President Talcott in the chair. Present, Commissioners Rehm and Sheridan.

A COLORED MAN'S WRONGS.

Policeman Charles M. Newland and Florence Donohue, of the First Precinct, were charged with wilfully maltreating a citizen. The complainant was Horace Buckminster, of No. 1003 State street. The man alleged to have been wilfully maltreated, is William Stewart, an employe of Buckminster. He said he was going home on New Year's eve with a turkey which Buckminster had given him, and went into a candy store to get some "good things" for his children. When he returned to the street, he saw Newland and Donohue standing on the sides alk. He asked the way to Taylor street, and Newland kicked him, called him a bad name, and told him to move on. Stewart said he had been watching him all night. He started off, and both the officers "make for him," and he ran into a house to avoid him. When he reached his door, he was knocked down by both and blood issued from a wound in his head.

Newland cross-examined him, and he stated that while running he threw his coat and vest on a scarf, and, before he was struck, he turned to Newland and said if they were not officers he would warm them both. He denied having been drunk, and having pulled off his coat at the doorstep and threatened to whip them.

Mr. Buckminster testified to Stewart's good character.

Fanny Hayes heard the first "lick," and saw the second "lick," and saw the officers beating Stewart on the sidewalk.

Adele Cole, who lives in the same house with Scott, an absent witness, swore that the policeman called at the house several times, and Scott told her that he was not, as he first intended, going to testify for the Chief of Police, as it was beneficial to keep on the "good side" of them.

Newland claimed that the prosecution was prompted by malice, and tried to elicit from Stewart that Bill Rosan and Martin Henry had told him to prosecute and push it after charges, expense, but Stewart denied having been requested to do it by either of the men. He was retained by a friend.

The case went over until to-morrow, in order that the policemen could summon their witnesses.

DISMISSED FOR NOT PAYING HIS DEBTS.

Policeman DeLacey, of the Lake street squad, who was tried on Friday and paid it after charges had been preferred against him, was up for a hearing, the case having been deferred on account of the absence of the prosecutor. The man was not present yesterday, but the Commissioners, thinking that he had been "bought up" to remain away, and that the dodge of paying debts after charges were preferred was becoming an example being made, dismissed DeLacey from the force.

TEMPERANCE OFFICERS.

Policeman Wheeler, Bartram, of the Third Precinct, was charged with disobedience of orders and conduct unbecoming an officer, viz.: not returning properly to his station, and not reporting for duty at the proper time.

He took a lot of valuable works from in front of the residence of E. B. McCagg, Esq., and carried them home, retaining possession of them until it became known to outside persons that he had them. He knew all the time that they belonged to Mr. McCagg. Bartram said he intended to return the books, but neglected to report to the Captain that he had them. A letter was read from Mr. McCagg, stating that the books had been left on the premises. This had great weight with the Board, and Bartram was merely reprimanded. Although the charges were not such as would be considered serious, which, perhaps, should be overlooked on account of previous good conduct and strict attention to duty.

The Fire Marshal came on Policemen W. H. Stearns and Fred. Hausmann were received and accepted.

THE DETECTIVES.

Commissioner Rehm offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the General Superintendent be, and he is hereby, instructed to require all detectives, who are now or may hereafter be detailed as such, to report at once to him, and that he then proceed to detail therefrom six of them to detective service, and send the remainder of them to regular patrol duty, and that no men be hereafter detailed or paid as detectives except those stationed at the Central Station.

President Talcott said there ought be a detectives at the Police Headquarters all night. The men hereafter must attend to their business, or they would receive their heads.

Commissioner Rehm said that the present system of having detectives at the precinct station was productive of envy and jealousy. If an officer could not "work up" a case he would spoil its working up by another.

Commissioner Sheridan favored the system now in vogue. If a man was robbed and reported at the precinct station house, time would be lost by going to the Police Headquarters for a detective. He was surprised at the statement that there were officers in the force who would frustrate a job because it was in the hands of another.

Commissioner Rehm said it has been done, and he ought to know.

Commissioner Sheridan thought an officer who would put an impediment in the way of another ought to be discharged.

Commissioner Rehm said there were too many detectives.

President Talcott remarked that the sooner they were under the control of the Superintendent the better. If a man was wanted for any particular purpose, the Superintendent could detail the fittest detective to work it up.

The resolution was then adopted.

Commissioner Rehm moved that one of the detectives be detailed to remain at night at the Police Headquarters, so that an officer can be available at all times. Agreed to.

On motion, the Deputy Superintendent was instructed to remain at the headquarters at night, in order to have a "boss" at the helm during the absence of the General Superintendent.

THE FIRE ORDINANCE.

The General Superintendent submitted the following order for the approval of the Board:

Captains of Police are hereby ordered to have the ordinances passed by the Common Council of the city of Chicago, fixing the fire limits in their several precincts, strictly enforced. They will instruct the officers under their command to notify all parties violating any of the ordinances to desist from such violation. Should they fail to so desist, they will instruct their officers to immediately arrest all parties violating any of said ordinances. They will also call the attention of their officers to the provisions of Section 6, Chapter 9, page 235, of the consolidated ordinances of the city of Chicago.

The section referred to reads:

Sheds not exceeding twelve feet in length at the ends of the buildings, and not exceeding ten feet square and twelve feet in height at the peak, may be constructed of wood; and shall not be considered as coming within the meaning of this chapter: *Provided*, That the term "shed" be so construed as to mean a structure for a tool house, or temporary purpose, and not for the purpose of making power designed; by the act to provide a more thorough [illegible] of this chapter.

Commissioner Rehm said the ordinance was a good one, and those dealing in fire-works ought to be attached to it a more unanimous punishment than effected by composition. He thought it ought to apply to all officers without distinction. "In construing a statute," says Chancellor Kent, "the intention is to be taken, or presumed, according to what is consonant to reason and good discretion." Would it be consonant to reason, that all officers, from the highest down to the [illegible] tide waiter, should be liable to the penalties inflicted by [illegible] statute, except policemen? That is the attitude assumed by the defendant upon this motion, in the construction placed by him upon the ordinance. He did not consider any other officer known to the laws of the State, who does not come within its terms. Where [illegible] statute leads to abuses, or frustrates the evident object of the statute, it should be rejected, if more reasonable one can be put on it. (Rawson vs. The State, 19 Conn. 295.) It is true that penal statutes must be construed strictly, but a penal statute is not to be extended, as well as the letter of a statute, must be respected, and when the whole context of the law demonstrates a particular intent to include a case, it is called [illegible] to effect that intent. Doctrescan vs. United States, 5 Cranch 324). But the statute is to be so strongly situated that it may have a reasonable effect agreeably to the intent of the Legislature, where [illegible] the language is obscure. (Gore vs. Brazier, 3 Mass. 523.)

It is unnecessary to my mind, from a consideration of the whole scope and spirit of the statute and the object evidently intended to be effected by it, that any Alderman is within the reason and meaning of the law, be within its letter? It is argued that as he not, because he is neither a judicial nor administrative officer. If he be a judicial officer, as stated, it must be admitted to be one who shall discharge such duties as pertain to the administration of justice. Then he certainly is not such officer; but, if to be such officer, he must have powers are discretionary to execute or withhold, according to his own view of what is necessary and proper, then, the duties of an Alderman are in their nature judicial, and he may fairly come within the definition of such offices. "No interpretation can be admitted which shall defeat the intention of the law, if it can be fairly understood and considered with reference to the principles of the law, nor any which, although consistent with the words, is inconsistent with the common reasonable operation." Ewarris on Stats. 207. The statute having already provided for the punishment of Judges and Justices of the Peace, by specially naming them, there are no other strictly judicial officers. If there are, they are included in the definition of the Legislature to have used these words, after [illegible] specially naming Judges and Justices (to-day), hence the question might well be postponed till Wednesday. The resolutions contained some subjects of great importance, and the views already expressed of the necessity for subordinating the actions under one head.

The motion prevailed, and the resolutions were postponed till Wednesday.

LONG OR SHORT BONDS.

The report of the Financial Committee, adopted on Friday, was taken up, and a motion made by Commissioner Stearns to reconsider it.

Commissioner Hitchcock was in favor of reconsidering.

Commissioner White, Commissioner Crawford in the chair, opposed the issue of long bonds on the ground that the interest bonds until twenty years to run would necessitate the payment of the original sum raised and nearly half as much more in interest. He regarded this as an attempt to force the county to pay 120 or 140 per cent on its paper, which

A LONG AND TEDIOUS TRIP.

Arrival in Chicago of Eight Hundred California Passengers.

Twenty Days Consumed in Coming Across the Continent.

The Delay Occasioned by Snow Drifts and Mismanagement.

Half the Time Lost Spent on Side Tracks Between Ogden and Medicine Bow.

A Terrible Catastrophe Providentially Averted.

Yesterday morning, about 2 o'clock, the Northwestern Railroad landed in this city three hundred and fifty passengers who had been delayed on the Pacific Railroad. Some of them left San Francisco on the 19th ultimo, and had, consequently, been confined in their gilded cages nearly three weeks. Long confinement had not, however, inured them to captivity. All of them were weary, hungry, indisposed, and thoroughly satisfied with railroad riding. Some of them left this city by the early trains yesterday morning, sure now to reach their destinations. But most of them stopped over a few hours to recuperate their exhausted energies, and to see the devastation of burnt-out Chicago.

The trains west of Ogden, which is something over eight hundred miles this side of San Francisco, have not been detained, except by ordinary accidents during the winter. Since the 21st ultimo no trains have left Ogden very irregularly for eastern points. Nearly all the delay has been between Percy and Cheyenne, a distance of 130 miles, in creeping over which brief space the first train out was occupied nearly two weeks. The present season, as compared with former seasons in the mountains, has been one of unusual rigor. The first winter after the opening of the Pacific Railroad, considerable trouble and delay was experienced. The snow-sheds were either burned or broken in by the great weight of the snow, and the track was left unprotected in deep cuts and gullies where protection was most needed. The delay of that winter on all serious inconveniences upon travellers, and not expense upon the company. Since that time the snow-sheds have been constructed, delays seldom long continued. A train would be stopped two or three days upon some portions of the route, and make the rest of the trip without hindrance. The experiences of this winter have been different. One stoppage in a snowdrift has been only the prelude to innumerable others more serious and disastrous.

From some of the through passengers who have missed sufficient equitably to permit of their giving a detailed account of their experiences, we have gleaned the facts which we give herewith.

THE WORK WHICH OCCASIONED THE TROUBLE.

On the 21st of December, intelligent passengers inform us that, as near as they could tell, the fall of snow did not any where exceed twelve inches in depth. It was light and dry, and was easily blown from place to place. For some days succeeding the storm strong westerly and northwesterly winds blew immense drifts into the cuts and gullies along the track. In some cuts sometimes as high the roofs of the cars. Wherever the snow drifted it packed closely. The engine could make no impression on it, and they never ventured to proceed until the track was entirely clear. The snow plows operated at this difficulty, frequently several times during the passage of the train. Great care had to be used to avoid such contingencies. So rapid would the snow accumulate behind the plows that the passage of a train the track would again rendered impossible.

Snow plows were scattered all through the line, from Ogden to Cheyenne, but their numbers fell far short of the exigencies of the case. Laborers were distributed on the principal cuts, to the number of 25 to 100. The aggregate number employed could not have been short of 1,200, yet these proved very inadequate to the situation. The dissatisfaction of the case was fully appreciated by the company, consequently they were poorly prepared.

THE PASSENGERS PASSED THE TIME

as well as they could. There was at first a great deal of smoking and card-playing, united with the imbibition of whiskey; second, a great deal of reading, and third, a great deal of sleeping. As Dr. Lincoln used to say; and, third, a moderate amount of religion on Sundays.

There were four trains that were snowed in for any length of time,—these leaving San Francisco on the 19th, 20th, 22d, and 26th. Many of the passengers were drug-eaters, and they were those which suffered the most. The 19th train was over 500 persons all told. Quite a number had just arrived on the Pacific mail steamer from China and Japan, and the Union Pacific offered a discount of 33 1/3 to get them to go over. These persons felt very much irritated at the delay, and believed that they were to be detained at Omaha. Other through passengers felt considerable indignation at the delay, and made some demonstrations. Among the latter were several Germans, one of whom, a member of the British Consular force, was among those belonging to the train. He was at one of the north stations, and on the train before the confinement began. He was through with only an ordinary valise, and had no bedding. He added to his temper. Another Englishman, Russian Consul at San Francisco, a jolly fellow, was also among the passengers. He did not indulge in philippics, though his name would have warranted the same. Governor Haight, late of California, and his newly elected colleague, A. A. Sargent, were among the unfortunates. Several army officers were along, rather for show than use, as they had no baggage. There was also one of a reddish tu be seen along the entire route. Rev. R. Anthony was on the way from San Francisco to Washington on other business.

BAND TACK AND COFFEE

with the rest, and was happy. Two clergymen on board, on Sunday, as soon as the train was halted their services to conduct divine worship on Sunday. One of them officiated, the music being by a cabinet organ played by a young lady on board, and the other was to officiate, but he would also have officiated, but the conductor finding upon consulting the travelers, that the majority would be Catholics, the Protestant service was omitted. On the Sabbath divine service was omitted. On the 24th Rev. Mr. Morrow, from Allegheny City, and the other Rev. Mr. Devoe, of Newark, N. J.

THE TERRIBLE DELAY.

The detention was especially disagreeable and trying to many of the passengers, some of them had had a long voyage at sea, others having urgent business, and nearly all desiring to reach various destinations during the holiday season. Preparations were directed to make good time because their wedding day was fixed by the bridal week, and delay might be fatal. Others had the orange-flowers will not either, or the bride's cake become stale before they got their destination.

THE FEED.

Use of the trains was supplied with a hotel car, the car having gone West under the special charge of Mr. Medbery, formerly of the Evening Post. Every thing—mere accidental, but very fortunate circumstance. Persons on the train to which it was attached had regular meals with the exception of people on the other trains fared poorly. Some had brought along a liberal supply, and were participating freely. But these soon exhausted, and then the car was called into requisition. The experiences of this winter have been different. One stoppage in a snowdrift has been only the prelude to innumerable others more serious and disastrous.

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NEW PUBLICATIONS.

The [illegible] Signature.

Literary Miscellany—Gossip at Home and Abroad.

Portland Enterprise.

At last we have the long-promised *Kansas Magazine*, bearing the imprint of the Kansas Magazine Publishing Company, at Topeka, and the date of January, 1872. For an initial number, it has made an exceedingly creditable start; and, in its editorial conduct, good judgment has been shown in not making too premature a local magazine, but giving its contents a variety and general interest. By a another odd coincidence, the Western writers represented all furnish poetry. They are Channing, Hay, and Townsend; the first contributing a very pleasant picture of "The Wulnu Lake," in the Vale of Cashmere; the second, a little cattle "Words;" and the last, a story of "The Mormon's Old Wife," in verse, in which Mr. Townsend has invented a rather prosaic polygamic fact with very romantic hues. The remaining articles, twenty-one in number, we presume are furnished by Western writers; and, of these, eleven are on Western topics, viz.: "The Wyandotte Convention,"—a rather superficial, and yet interesting, sketch of this famous political gathering, by Colonel William A. Phillips; "Athanatos," a *post mortem* kind of sketch, which gives a brief, but graphic, picture of life in Kansas during the pro-slavery troubles; "The Summer of 1861, and the Summer of 1871,"—a journal of travel in the West, by R. S. McCabe; a biographical sketch of the late Albert D. Richardson, more especially in his identification with Kansas, by John J. Ingalls; an able written paper on "Kansas Railroads," by Milton W. Reynolds; "Border Annals,"—the first of a series of historical papers by Charles B. Wilkinson, and devoted to The Confederate occupation of St. Joseph, Mo.; a sketch of the General Council of the Indian Territory which was held at Okmulgee in December, 1870, by F. W. Cockley; a very interesting sketch of Oliver Brown [illegible] of John Brown, who was killed with his father, at Harper's Ferry, by F. B. Sanborn; "The Great Salt Lake," a paper in which R. P. Stanton develops the philosophy of their rivers and streamlets, and shows how they can be made available for irrigating the Plains; "Black Jack,"—a story of frontier life, by Deane Monahan; and "A-beone," a collection of short, spicy paragraphs, commenting on current Western news. The other papers are: "Nervy," by Hesper Keith,—a graphic sketch of an episode in every-day life, which is the best written article in the magazine; a criticism of "Darwinianism," by J. W. Roberts; "Footprints,"—a sophomorical Essay, by Cora M. Downs; "Reminiscences of Thaddeus Stevens," by Mary H. ——; "A Plea for Housekeepers," by Mrs. Hattie McCoy North; and six poems by various poetical aspirants, none of which are worth making a note of. We have been particular to specify each article, because it is the first number of the magazine, and that the reader may form an idea of its comprehensive character. It is not free from the faults which mark a first to many a first one. Some of the papers are too unimportant for publication. There is too much mere rhyming, and a great deal of slipshod, good-reading; but, allowing for these faults, which will undoubtedly find correction, the magazine has made a brave start, and gives every promise of future usefulness. In its mechanical make-up, it is very neat and tasty.

Old and New, for January, has made its appearance rather late, but is good enough to compensate for that delay. We have already given a list of contents last week, and need not repeat them now, further than saying a deserved compliment to Mrs. Florey's admirable articles and very clever Letter from Chicago, and also to the chronicling the many surprising adventures of "Will Edgerton," of Chicago, who, in the course of a few weeks in Paris, during the Exposition, managed to get into a close connection with a Royal assassin; to save the life of the Czar of Russia; to nearly kill Napoleon; to be recognized on several rare occasions by Eugenie; to be tapped on the shoulder by Napoleon; to be placed under surveillance; to be interviewed by Russian Ministers; to be protected by Napoleon's Gendarmes, while in Paris, from fervent lovers, and to live to return to Chicago; all of which shows the disadvantages under which Americans labor who go abroad.

Forney's Press for the current week comes out in its new form, minus the fearfully bad illustrations which have characterized it for some time past, and devoted exclusively to eclectic reading. Here now about the size and shape of the *London Athenæum*, and is filled with matter very judiciously chosen from the lighter English periodicals of the day. The first article is "Cornhill Magazine and *All the Year Round* school," the two leading papers of which contain Passion Play," by Matthew Arnold, and "The Clerical Spirit," by Charles Kingsley; the remainder being made up of light, sparkling sketches, many of them from "Punch's Trombones," from *London Society*, is capital in its way. In its new form, the paper is a decided improvement upon the condensed one, and is printed with exquisite neatness. It its conductors do not trust their success entirely to their imprint, we see no reason why it should not become a favorite eclectic in the homes of those who like the misfortunes which overtook its predecessor.

Decidedly the best annual of reference which has yet made its appearance is the *New York Observer Year Book*, for which we are indebted to Sidney E. Morse, Jr., & Co., New York. The amount of information contained in its pages is simply enormous, and must have necessitated a vast amount of labor. We have not the space to enumerate its contents; but, in addition to the religious, secular, and statistical information contained in the last annual, it has a complete abstract of the census of the United States for 1870, with the population of every city in the Union; the census of the British Empire for the same year; an extensive chronological table of important events from the beginning of creation to the present time; the States and Territories; Railroad map; tables of distances from New York and Washington; lists of the Kings and Queens of England, from the beginning of the monarchy to the present time; the British Administrations of this century, together with a complete list of the Peerage of Great Britain, with their title and order of rank, and the composition of the House of Commons; list of standard volumes by the most publishing houses of this country; complete religious statistical information for the year; foreign productions; the name of every clergyman in the United States, and his address, except in the Methodist denomination, where they change pastors so often as to render it impracticable; a table of the most coming up to last year's "Ozokerit" mystery, has promised for the press, by Edward S. Ellis, a complete form, to appear shortly. "Mabel Heron" is the title of a novel nearly ready for the press, by Edward Bellamy, of Ballston Spa, N. Y. Dr. Newpath has a book of "Miscellanies" in course of preparation. Julius Plattmann, the well-known artist in water-colors, is preparing a book which is to treat on the connection between the popular songs of the day and the New, announced under the title. "Americas-Asiatic Etymologies, or Bohring's Straits Problem in connection with the Origin of Languages." Mr. Bohring's Straits Problem in connection with the Origin of Languages." Mr. Bohring is preparing to a new periodical organ, which is to appear every Sunday, called the *Railway Service Gazette*. Already, the religious newspapers recently called forth a very excellent work in the interests of the Old Catholics "Professor Friedrich's Diary of the Vatican Council," a periodical, to be conducted by another leader of the Dollinger movement, Dr. Michaelis, in Prussia, will soon appear."

Saracenia as a Remedy for Small-Pox.

LODA, Ill., Jan. 4.

To the Editor of The Chicago Tribune:

SIR: I noticed an article in your paper, a few days ago, from D. H. Wiggins, M.D., stating that the Saracenia, or Pitcher Plant, had been used in the treatment of small-pox, during the winter and spring of 1871, in Buffalo, with decided success. Although this remedy has been professionally denounced, he declares that he knows of persons who are ready to testify to its good results. He goes on to say that it was discovered by a squaw, who used it for treating a British soldier, in New Brunswick, in the winter of the *Chilcago Great Record*, published in the interest of the children at the Home in that city, and devoted to juvenile reform.

—The second part of the *National Encyclopedia*, by Dr. Colange, published by Francis B. Felt & Co., has come to hand. It will be completed in sixteen more numbers, and promises to be a very useful compendium of reference.

Appleton's Journal for the week ending the 13th inst., is fully up to the standard of past numbers, and gives evidence that both as a literary and scientific publication, the managers intend to make it equal to the best of its class. The engravings in this number are not specially noticeable; but the literary contents are unexceptionably good.

Van Nostrand's Eclectic Engineering Magazine for January, contains various papers of interest to those engaged in scientific and mechanical pursuits; among them, "Notes on Fire-Bricks," "Strains in Straight Girders and Trusses," "The Temperature and Elasticity of Steam," "The Broad and Narrow Gauge for Railways," "The Atlantic Telegraph," "Pneumatic Despatch Tubes," "Critical Examination of the Ideas of Inertia and Momentum," "Graphical Estimates for Railway Earthwork," "The Temperature Produced by Solar Radiation," and numerous minor topics.

The new periodicals, says the London *Athenæum*, will be started in Russia. The one, a monthly paper, will bear the title of *Antiquity Symbols*, or "Asiatic Messenger," and will devote special attention to what is going on in Siberia, and in the Amoor, Trans-Caucasus, and Turkestan Districts, besides dealing with such subjects as the history and ethnography of the East in general; the other, a weekly paper styled the *Grashdanin*, or "Citizen," will mainly occupy itself with political and social questions especially such as relate to the development of the resources of Russia, and to the moral and physical of the Russian people.

Miss Thackeray has begun a new story, entitled "Old Kensington," which will appear simultaneously in the *Cornhill Magazine* and *Harper's Magazine*.

At Lahore a newspaper is about to be published in Arabic. The Arab press is becoming active, with the following papers: Beirut, Syria, Bombay, Egypt, Constantinople, Barbary, and some few others.

That well-known organ of American radical thought, the *Radical*, which, with the January issue, falls into the hands of an association with a paid-up capital of $50,000, and thus begins the new year under conditions favorable to success.

The *Congregationalist* is the title of a new English magazine.

Literary Miscellany.

Three thousand copies of Mr. Owen's "Debatable Land" were ordered before its publication.

—The author of "Gunx's Baby" says no other people in the world has equal talent for the ornamental expression of nothing as the Americans.

—A "Journal Kept During the Vatican Council," by Professor J. Friedrich, is about to be printed at Nordlingen.

—The biography of Sir R. Murchison is to be written by Prof. Geikie, of Edinburg.

—A fifth edition of Mr. Forster's "Life of Dickens" will appear shortly. Over two thousand copies have been subscribed for by the trade.

—Several poems by Goethe will first see the light in a forthcoming book, by Prof. Mendelssohn, about the relations between his father and Goethe.

—"Welling's Life of James Buchanan" is about complete, and will soon be in the printer's hands. Mr. Welling was editor of the *National Intelligencer* for some years before its light was extinguished.

—Miss Frances Power Cobbe has in press a volume with the comprehensive title, "Creeds of the East and Speculations of the West." Among the other essays will be included her articles on "Unconscious Cerebration" and "Religion of Childhood."

—It has just been discovered by an English critic that Chatterton manufactured his old English poems, which for a time deceived even literary scholars, out of Kersey's Dictionary and Speght's Glossary to Chaucer.

—"Brigham's Destroying Angel" is the sensational title of a forthcoming book containing the life and confessions of the notorious Bill Hickman, the Danite Chief of Utah Territory. It purports to be written by Hickman himself.

—The London *Rochdaler*, in an article on the copyright question, says: "We do not despair of a solution, if those who are most interested will set about it in a right spirit; we do not even despair of the American people agreeing to a fair and equitable International Copyright act. But if we were Americans, we would not agree to become parties to any act now in existence; and, if our authors or large publishers think they will be fools enough to do so, we 'guess' they'll be disappointed."

—An interesting literary relic is announced to be for sale in London among the manuscripts of the late Charles Dickens, viz., Porter King-at-Arms. It is Oliver Goldsmith's "Political View of the Present War with America upon Great Britain, France, Prussia, Germany, and Holland," in the original autograph manuscript, forty pages folio, believed to be unpublished, which came from the library of Isaac Reed, to whom it was presented by George Stevens, who got it from Hamilton, the printer. Mr. Hawes account of Goldsmith's use of James' powders in his last illness, which was printed in 1774, accompanies the manuscript.

—Speaking of bookstores, a New York letter, our notorious Mayor Oakey Hall, has a taste in that line. His collection is one of the finest in the country. I saw one book he has which cost $1,000. It is a history of the English stage; the letter-press is from Durand's book, and the illustrations are from every conceivable source. The original matter is taken apart, each page split and inlaid on a large page about thirty inches long by twenty wide. This kind of work, by the way, is only done by a few artists in this country. Hall has many pet books of the kind. Cundy days are exceptional days.

Purity of the atmosphere is another great desideratum. Pitched tents covered with a thick coat of tar, and a heavy porcelain floor, will ward off the ravages of tropical vegetation, saturated as it is with moisture, and undergoing a constant and rapid process of decomposition; but the air of Colorado is remarkable. Vegetation, on its vast, unirrigated surface, dries up before the middle of August, and the hay that is cut and hung up in the open air dries up, but never rots. The air, when inhaled, gives to the system a feeling of freshness and a vitalizing force to the body as atmosphere so pure can ever communicate.

The facts are, that no one goes to Colorado, having predisposed tendencies to consumption, or in the early stages only of the disease, but is immediately relieved, and most all previous symptoms of the disease vanish within a few hours; it is even more so with asthma. There are also a number of other diseases for which the climate of Colorado offers peculiar advantages, such as diseases of the liver, spleen, and general depression of the nervous system, caused by the poisonous miasmatic exhalations from Cuba and Florida. In fact, the climate of Colorado, by its general invigorating influence, would be beneficial in an hundred different ways, on account of the tonic properties of its atmosphere.

R. A. CAMERON.

FOREIGN GOSSIP.

Rochefort's occupation at Fort Bayard is that of carving the history of his own life. A part of the book will, of course, be entirely insolent; it is, in fact, "Histoire du Bas Empire; ou, les Aventures de Rochefort."

—It is said that the Empress Eugenie endeavors to bring back reminiscences of her former rule by the purchase of articles connected with it, intending a little millinery establishment at Chiselhurst. The dethroned lady's taste has not changed in the ten years she has been out of fashion life, as the milliners who have been among her customers all the grand dames of her neighborhood.

—A gentleman dying at the age of "81 years and 6 months, and deeply regretted by his daughter," is described in the London *Times* in the following terms: "He was the eldest son of the late Reginald Dr. William Watton, Knight, of Brooke street, Grosvenor square, London, and his wife, Lucy, the twentieth century we shall Sheffield, daughter of Colonel Charles White, First Guards, grand-daughter of the Right Hon. Stephen Poyntz, and niece of the Duchess of Devonshire."

—Napoleon, it is said, had not his heart on spending the winter at the Palace of the Elyseé, Paris, but, so far, has not been able to find a pretext for not remaining. In the opera glass, while the Assembly holds its sittings.

—Rome has lately had some difficulty in the choice of a Mayor. Prince Borghese annulled the Marquis Gavotti, whose wife is an American. But the Marquis declined, and as Americans in Rome failed to find a second candidate, the person of the wife of the Commendatore of Rome.

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Saracenia as a Remedy for Small-Pox.

LODA, Ill., Jan. 4.

To the Editor of The Chicago Tribune:

SIR: I noticed an article in your paper, a few days ago, from D. H. Wiggins, M.D., stating that the Saracenia, or Pitcher Plant, had been used in the treatment of small-pox, during the winter and spring of 1871, in Buffalo, with decided success. Although this remedy has been professionally denounced, he declares that he knows of persons who are ready to testify to its good results. He goes on to say that it was discovered by a squaw, who used it for treating a British soldier, in New Brunswick, for small-pox, during the winter of [illegible]. And he appears to be anxious that his professional brethren should use it. His good medical brother, however, declines to have it used, for one, would advise him to read the *British Medical Journal*, page 29, July 4, 1868, where he will find that a certain Dr. Gaimes Miles used it with a vengeance, and advised others to do the same, so he regarded it as a universal cure for small-pox, because certain Indians believed in it. But, in the same journal, and on the same page, Dr. Wiggins will also find that the plant is condemned as a humbug by the celebrated English physician, Dr. Marson, who tried it on fifteen cases in the London Small-Pox Hospital, and all of them died, and no physician or druggist has been foolish enough to use it since. Very respectfully,

DR. H. SCHAFER.

The Banair Board of Trade and the Detroit Convention.

BOARD OF TRADE ROOMS, }
BUFFALO, N. Y., Jan. 3. }

To the Editor of The Chicago Tribune:

SIR: THE TRIBUNE, in its issue of the 28th of December last, in an article alluding to the Detroit Convention, says: "The exploit of the Buffalo Board of Trade in spurning the Detroit Convention with its foot (that is, refusing to send a delegate to it), and at the same time beseeching it, through a third party, not to do anything toward the construction of a Niagara Ship Canal," etc.

Our respect for public opinion is such that we are not content to rest under this false imputation, and wish to cast it off.

The TRIBUNE has been led into error in this matter. By letter sent to that our Board of Trade ignored the Convention "with a wet," or in any other way solicited a third party, or any other party to "beseech" for anything; it beseeches for nothing; it gives reasons for inaction; and, in the case of the Detroit Convention, gave its reasons for not sending delegates, in a respectful manner, after solicitation by its President personally and officially, in so many words, to send any delegate.

The Board of Trade, acting for the people of Buffalo, is not responsible for the action of the Convention, but is responsible in the true interests of Buffalo, asking for the assistance of the Convention, if such assistance is considered necessary, to further the interests of Buffalo, and has not been asked for the loans of Nashia, which, on the 4th day of December, by and, we have information, was received by the Secretary of the Convention, at a cost of $1,000, to be used in the interests of a few individuals, and not for the interests of any third party, or for the consideration of any third party, or for their consideration by the Convention at its organization.

In behalf of the Board of Trade of Buffalo, we desire that it would not wilfully slander us, and so we ask it to say that we did not assert the Convention; that we sent no third party to attend it, and did not beseech or its mass against the Niagara Ship Canal; as that our friends in the west will acquit us of discourtesy toward them, is of very disagreeable action. Yours very truly,

WILLIAM THURSTON, Secretary.

RESORTS FOR INVALIDS.

Colorado Compared with Cuba and Florida.

To the Editor of The Chicago Tribune:

SIR: As there are hundreds of persons in the city, and the field over which your able paper circulates, afflicted with catarrh, asthma, consumption, and kidney, liver, spleen, and nervous difficulties, seeking relief, the following statement of facts, prepared by General R. A. Cameron, and handed to the undersigned for your paper, will, no doubt, be read by them with great interest.

J. E. ANNOUR,
17 West Madison street.

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado.

In seeking relief from consumption in its earlier stages by change of condition or of climate, or when a pre-disposition to the developments of the disease begins to warm the individual to guard against its insidious attack, a number of points are to be considered. Before we examine them, it would be proper to inquire into the nature and cause of the disease. It is now, we believe, very generally admitted by the scientists that consumption is more a disease of defective nutrition than originally a disease of the lungs themselves; in fact, the disease may develop in the mesenteric glands of the abdomen, and the subject die of consumption of the bowels, without its affecting the lungs. In the full belief of this, witness the universally accepted method of treatment. The attempt is to sustain the individual by the most concentrated and nutritious forms of diet, such as concentrated extracts of beef, sirloin steaks, rare cooked, the fatty and nutritious oils, of which pure cod-liver ranks among the best. To digest and assimilate these, the patient is instructed in five as much as possible. In the open air; to rest from mental labor, and take to muscular exercise; to protect the extremities, that the circulation may be attracted upon the surface, and at the distant capillaries.

This being the best and more rational mode of treatment, the question immediately arises, What climate more naturally brings about these results without medication? Cuba and Florida have a higher temperature in the winter than Colorado, but the summers are so hot as to render invalid will burn up less of the carbonaceous matter in the one than in the other, so far is the climate in the one advantageous over the other. But they are countries whose normal condition merges on the miasmatic. The atmosphere is loaded with malarious matter, and the air is damp and depressing.

On the other hand, Colorado has a dry, clear, bracing air, with sunshine almost every day, and though the nights are clear and cool, the air is too dry to make the impression of the mercury sensibly or painfully affect the individual. In the winter the days are generally warm and pleasant, and in spring, summer, and autumn the nights are cool, refreshing, and sleep to have a delicious and refreshing sleep, waking in the morning with an excellent appetite, with power to digest and assimilate more food, of a nutritious quality than Minnesota or even, which has been shown, by years of experience, to be superior to Cuba.

There is another cause of defective nutrition and consumption which must not be overlooked. The reason is not so well understood, but the fact is beyond dispute, that persons who live much out from the light of day are more predisposed to, in a case, than any other, to consumption. I refer to cellar, basement, and underground tenements, such as are confined to ill-ventilated and worse lighted apartments. For these, constant inhalation is everything. Many persons spend days in Colorado and the highly elevated parts of the continent than in the vapor-loaded sea coast of any part of the world. Cloudy days are exceptional days.

Purity of the atmosphere is another great desideratum. Pitched tents covered with a thick coat of tar, and a heavy porcelain floor, will ward off the ravages of tropical vegetation, saturated as it is with moisture, and undergoing a constant and rapid process of decomposition; but the air of Colorado is remarkable. Vegetation, on its vast, unirrigated surface, dries up before the middle of August, and the hay that is cut and hung up in the open air dries up, but never rots. The air, when inhaled, gives to the system a feeling of freshness and a vitalizing force to the body as atmosphere so pure can ever communicate.

The facts are, that no one goes to Colorado, having predisposed tendencies to consumption, or in the early stages only of the disease, but is immediately relieved, and most all previous symptoms of the disease vanish within a few hours; it is even more so with asthma. There are also a number of other diseases for which the climate of Colorado offers peculiar advantages, such as diseases of the liver, spleen, and general depression of the nervous system, caused by the poisonous miasmatic exhalations from Cuba and Florida. In fact, the climate of Colorado, by its general invigorating influence, would be beneficial in an hundred different ways, on account of the tonic properties of its atmosphere.

R. A. CAMERON.

FOREIGN GOSSIP.

Rochefort's occupation at Fort Bayard is that of carving the history of his own life. A part of the book will, of course, be entirely insolent; it is, in fact, "Histoire du Bas Empire; ou, les Aventures de Rochefort."

—It is said that the Empress Eugenie endeavors to bring back reminiscences of her former rule by the purchase of articles connected with it, intending a little millinery establishment at Chiselhurst. The dethroned lady's taste has not changed in the ten years she has been out of fashion life, as the milliners who have been among her customers all the grand dames of her neighborhood.

—A gentleman dying at the age of "81 years and 6 months, and deeply regretted by his daughter," is described in the London *Times* in the following terms: "He was the eldest son of the late Reginald Dr. William Watton, Knight, of Brooke street, Grosvenor square, London, and his wife, Lucy, the twentieth century we shall Sheffield, daughter of Colonel Charles White, First Guards, grand-daughter of the Right Hon. Stephen Poyntz, and niece of the Duchess of Devonshire."

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—The jewels belonging to the Apollo Gallery of the Louvre were concealed during the Commune in a small room, carefully walled up, on the east end story of the building erected by Francois I. over the Salle Henry II. and the Salon des Sept Cheminees. The existence of the secret was confined to the conservators, who, during the two months occupation of the palace, must have passed before it a thousand times without suspecting that this treasure of jewelry, rock crystal, enamels, &c., estimated at 40,000,000 francs, was so near them. The count of this sum, by the way, is Count Clement Duvernois, formerly one of the Corps Legislatif, who, as a member of the Commune, was one of the hostages shot by the Versailles troops.

—The Empress Eugenie," says the Paris *Gaulois*, "arrived at Cadiz on Dec. 11, and left immediately for Malaga. The afternoon before the departure from Madrid, she received a visit from King Amadeus, accompanied by the Queen. She immediately returned it, and remained an hour and a half at the Palace. His Majesty was at the door when she arrived, and on her departure conducted her to her carriage with the most devoted respect. More than a thousand members of the Spanish aristocracy were at the station to salute Her Majesty on leaving. During her stay in the Spanish capital she lived very retired. However, twice a week she received the visits of the higher classes, who eagerly showed their sympathy for the fallen Empress. Her Majesty is accompanied in her journey by Mme. Lermina, the Duke de Bassano, the Duke de Bascar and Count Clary."

—The Marquise de Boissy (better known as Byron's Guiccioli) has definitely left Paris to spend the winter at her villa near Florence, in which the climate is more equable. The villa, a beautiful estate at Settunello, near Florence, in which city Count Gamba, her only surviving brother, resided. The Marquise is now in her seventieth year, but auburn tresses show no trace of gray hairs, and her teeth are as sound and as even as [illegible]. She has recently, it is said, written another book called "Personal Recollections of Lord Byron," which is about to be printed for circulation among her friends.

—Mrs. Eyres, the aged lady who gained great notoriety in the English courts as a claimant for the property of Mr. Thomas Eyres, a celebrated painter and marine draughtsman to the Admiralty. The mother Mrs. Eyres, who the lady knows as the "Princess Olive," alleged to be the daughter of Henry Frederick, Duke of Cumberland, brother of George III.

—Here is the record of a divorce under the Commune:

FRENCH REPUBLIC.
LIBERTY, EQUALITY, FRATERNITY.
Commune of Paris.—Ward, Bourse.

I, upon my own responsibility, authorize her to dispose of the chamber and furniture, which were our common property; and I authorize her to dispose of her wish to dissolve our marriage, and that she can make no request nor take any legal proceedings against me in regard to it, or concerning the settlement into our full and perfect liberty, as if we had never been married.

I acknowledge having received authority for the furniture which was common between me and my husband; the assets principally consisting of a debt due to me by side undertaking to have recourse to him for no rights. I leave him full and perfect liberty. *Salut.*

[illegible]

Playing-Cards.

Few who sit down to a pleasant game at whist or piquet have any more than a hazy notion of the centuries these painted bits of cards have furnished amusement to the human race. Far away into the times of unwritten history, the Hindus, and Arabs were making their different combinations of a warlike game, bearing many relations to its sister, chess. On thin slips of ivory, mother-of-pearl, or wood, the devices were painted for the hands of Oriental despots; no less than eight armies and eight players struggled for the victory, under the command of Kings, Queens, Knights, and even Pawns. China seems to have been the home of their invention; from thence they passed on to India about 1120, and were soon adopted by the Arabs, the marauders in their turn learned the game of their foes, and from the number of decrees forbidding their use issued by the Church, we may believe that they soon spread all over Europe. The "stuffed Captain" of Cruikshank's drawings is first found in the numerous false pretences by which Government was supposed to obtain funds. The "stuffed Captain," who was again made the subject of a fierce attack in the latest fight over the Budget, turns out to be no other than His Majesty himself, by his imperial dignity Captain of his own First Foot Guards. He does not, however, pocket the pay, nor chalks down his own name, but pays it regularly toward the support of the tallest man in that company of giants, for which, like Frederick the Great, he has a constitutional tenderness.

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